THE

PHILOSOPHICAL & POLITICAL

HISTORY

OF THE

Thirteen United States of America.

COMPREHENDING,

New Hampſhire,	Pennſylvania,
Maſſachuſetts-Bay,	Delaware,
Rhode Iſland and Providence Plantation,	Maryland,
Connecticut,	Virginia,
New York,	North Carolina
New Jerſey,	South Carolina, and
	Georgia.

Containing a conciſe Account of their First Settlements, principal Cities and Towns, Air, Soil, Produce, Manufactures, and Commerce.

With a ſhort View of the

INDEPENDENT STATE OF VERMONT,

AND OF

EAST AND WEST FLORIDA.

Alſo a general Survey of the

REMAINS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,

AND OF THE

BRITISH AMERICAN AND WEST INDIAN ISLANDS.

To which is prefixed,

An Account of the Perſons, ſingular Cuſtoms and Manners, of the original Inhabitants of America.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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THE

THE

HISTORY

OF

NORTH AMERICA.

INTRODUCTION.

AT this awful period, when new republics are forming, and new empires burſting into birth, the Hiſtory of North America becomes peculiarly intereſting. The diſcovery of America brought to view a vaſt continent and iſlands, of whoſe exiſtence mankind had formerly no conception, and where almoſt every plant, tree, and animal, was different from thoſe of the ancient hemiſphere. It offered to human contemplation a ſpectacle equally new and aſtoniſhing, equally ſingular and grand. Nature appeared here in all her rude magnificence: immenſe foreſts, untrodden but by the foot of

the hunter, and where the axe had never exerted its power; extenſive plains, without any traces of culture; large lakes, great rivers, and enormous mountains: theſe were the diſtinguiſhing features of America.

That ſimple and ſavage ſtate, which was known to this continent only by the unfanciful deſcription of our poets, actually exiſted in the new world, where man appeared under the rudeſt form in which he could conceive him to exiſt; he was not only a ſtranger to the refinements in policy and arts, but, the Mexicans and Peruvians excepted, almoſt unacquainted with property: he was in the firſt ſtage of his being. To follow him in this progreſs, as he gradually advances from this infant ſtate of civil life to his maturity; to obſerve at each period, how the faculties of his underſtanding unfold; to attend to the efforts of his active powers to watch the motions of the affections as they riſe in his heart, and mark whither they tend, and with what order they are excited, are objects, of which the writers of ancient Greece and Rome had but an imperfect idea, but which are fully preſented to the hiſtorians of America.

Let us now take a curſory view of the firſt ſettlement of Britiſh colonies on this weſtern continent. Sebaſtian Cabot firſt made the northern

northern continent in 1497. This country in general was then called Newfoundland, a name which is now appropriated ſolely to an iſland upon its coaſt. It was a long time before we attempted to make any ſettlements, till Sir Walter Raleigh ſhewed the way, by planting a colony in the ſouthern part, which he called Virginia. However the ſpirit of colonization was not yet fully raiſed. Men lived at eaſe in their own country, and the new ſettlement of Virginia, though dreſſed up in all the ſhewy colours which eloquence could beſtow upon it, gave adventurers but little encouragement.

The affairs of North America were put into the hands of an excluſive company, in which ſtate they continued untill the latter end of the reign of James the Firſt. From the commencement of the reformation in England, two parties of proteſtants ſubſiſted among us: the firſt had choſen gradually and almoſt imperceptibly to recede from the Church of Rome; ſoftening the lines, rather than eraſing the figure, they made but very little alteration in the appearance of things. The other party, of a warmer temper, had more zeal and leſs policy. Several of them had fled from the perſecution in Queen Mary's days, and they returned in thoſe of Queen Elizabeth, with minds ſufficiently heated by

reſentment of their ſufferings, and by the perpetual diſputations, which had exerciſed them while they were abroad. Abroad they had learned an averſion to the epiſcopal order, and to religious ceremonies of every ſort, they were impregnated with a high ſpirit of liberty, and had a ſtrong tendency to the republican form of government.

Queen Elizabeth had enough of the blood of Henry the Eight, to make her impatient of any oppoſition to her will, eſpecially in matters of religion. in which ſhe had an high opinion of her own knowledge; and, during her whole reign, ſhe kept down the party with an uniform and inflexible ſeverity. The merit of their ſufferings, the affected plainneſs of their dreſs, the gravity of their deportment, the uſe of ſcripture phraſes on the moſt ordinary occaſions, and even their names, which had in them ſomething ſtriking and venerable, as being borrowed from the Old Teſtament, gained them a general eſteem among ſober people of ordinary underſtandings. This party, which was called puritans, was very numerous.

King James, when he came to the throne had a very fair opportunity of pacifying matters, or at leaſt, he might have left them in the condition he found them; on the contrary, he ſuffered them to be perſecuted, but

but not deſtroyed; they were exaſperated, and yet left powerful; and the then miniſtry, like thoſe who lately loſt our colonies, expoſed their weakneſs, ignorance, and baſeneſs, by an ill-timed ſeverity.

Matters remained in this ſtate untill the acceſſion of Charles the firſt, when they were far from being mended. This prince, endowed with ſome virtues, had very few amiable qualities. As grave as the puritans themſelves, he could never engage the licentious part of the world in his favour; and that gravity, turned againſt the puritans, made him the more odious to them. He gave himſelf entirely to the church and churchmen, and he finiſhed his ill-conduct, in this reſpect, by conferring the firſt eccleſiaſtical dignity of the kingdom, and a great ſway in temporal affairs, upon Dr. Laud, who, hardly fit to direct a college, was called to govern the empire.

Rather than to ſubmit to the tyranny of Laud, the moſt dreary realms, and the moſt unfrequented regions, where they could enjoy liberty of conſcience, appeared to the puritans ſuperior to the moſt ſplendid palaces. In conſequence of theſe diſſafections, a little colony ſailed from England, and eſtabliſhed itſelf at a place called New Plymouth, on the continent of America, the whole country be-

ing diſtinguiſhed by the name of South and North Virginia. They were but few in number, they landed in a bad ſeaſon, and not at all ſupported but from their private funds. The winter was premature, and terribly cold. The country was all covered with wood, and afforded very little for the refreſhment of perſons ſickly with ſuch a voyage, or even from ſuſtenance of an infant people. Near half of them periſhed by the ſcurvy, by want, and the ſeverity of the climate; but thoſe who ſurvived, not diſpirited with their loſſes, nor with the hardſhips they were ſtill to endure, ſupported by the vigour which was *then* the character of Engliſhmen, and by the ſatisfaction of finding themſelves out of the reach of the ſpiritual arm, reduced this ſavage country to yeild them a tolerable livelihood, and by degrees a comfortable ſubſiſtence. This little eſtabliſhment was made in the year 1621.

Several of their brethren in England, labouring under the ſame difficulties, took the ſame method from eſcaping from them. The colony of puritans inſenſibly encreaſed though as yet they had not extended themſelves much beyond New Plymouth; but in the year 1629, the colony began to flouriſh in ſuch a manner, that they ſoon became a conſiderable people. By the cloſe of the enſuing

ſuing year, they had built four towns Salem, Dorcheſter, Charleſtown, and Boſton.

Not only thoſe who found themſelves uneaſy at home upon a religious account, but ſeveral by reaſon of the then profitable trade of furs and ſkins, and for the ſake of the fiſhery, were invited over to theſe parts, which had now aſſumed the title of New England. But this colony received its principal aſſiſtance from the diſcontent of ſeveral great men of the puritan party, who were its protectors, and who entertained the deſign of ſettling among them in the new colony, ſhould they fail in the meaſures they were purſuing for eſtabliſhing the liberty, and reforming the religion of their mother country. They ſolicited grants in New England, and were at a great expence in ſettling them.

Among theſe patentees, we ſee the Lords Brook, Say and Sele, the Pelhams, the Hampdens, and the Pyms, names which afterwards appeared with ſo much eclat upon another ſtage. it was ſaid, that ſir Matthew Boyntun, Sir William Conſtable, Sir Arthur Haſlerig, and Oliver Cromwell, were actually upon the point of embarking for New England, when Archbiſhop Laud, unwilling that ſo many objects of his hatred ſhould be removed out of the reach of his power, applied for, and obtained an order from the court to

put

put a ſtop to theſe tranſportations; and thus he forcibly kept from venting itſelf, that virulent humour, which he lived to ſee the deſtruction of himſelf, his order, his religion, his maſter, and the conſtitution of his country.

Maſſachuſetts-bay had now ſettlements very thick along the ſhore. Some ſlips from theſe were planted in the province of New Hampſhire, being torn from the original ſtock by the religious violences, which was the chief characteriſtic of the firſt ſettlers in New England. Theſe very people, who had ſo loudly cried for toleration in England, had hardly ſet their foot in America, than the very doctrine of any ſort of toleration appeared ſo odious to the great part of them, that one of the firſt perſecutions ſet up here was againſt a ſmall party, who were hardly enough to maintain that the civil magiſtrate had no lawful power to uſe compulſory meaſures in affairs of religion. After haraſſing theſe people by all the vexatious ways imaginable, they obliged them to fly out of their juriſdiction. The emigrants ſettled themſelves to the ſouthward, near Cape Cod, where they formed a new government upon their own principles, and built a town which they called Providence. This has ſince made the fourth and ſmalleſt, but not the worſt inhabited, of the

the New England govern nents, called Rhode Island, from a island of that name, which forms a part of it. As a persecution gave rise to the first settlement of New England, so a subsequent persecution in this colony gave rise to new colonies, and facilitated the spreading of the people over the different parts of North America.

The quakers with that spirit which animates the beginning of most sects, had spread their doctrines all over the British dominions in Europe, and began at last to spread them with equal zeal in America. The clergy and magistrates in New England took the alarm: they seized upon some of those people, they set them in the stocks and in the pillory, without effect; they scourged, they imprisoned, and banished them; they treated all those who seemed to commiserate their sufferings with great rigour; but their persecutions, like all other religious persecutions, had no other effect, than to inflame their own cruelty and the zeal of the sufferers. The constancy of the quakers under their sufferings begot a pity and esteem for their persons, and an approbation of their doctrines. Their proselytes encreased, the quakers returned as fast as they were banished, and the fury of the ruling party was raised to such a height, that they proceeded to the most sanguinary

guinary extremities. Upon the law they had made, they ſeized at different times upon five of thoſe who had returned from baniſhment, condemned, and hanged them. It is unknown how far this madneſs would have extended, had not an order from the King and council in England, about the year 1661 interpoſed to put a ſtop to ſuch violent proceedings. They perſecuted the anababtiſts, who were no inconſiderable body among them, with almoſt equal ſeverity. In ſhort, this people, who in England could not bear being chaſtiſed with rods, and no ſooner got free from their fetters, than they ſcourged their fellow-refugees with ſcorpions, though the abſurdity as well as the injuſtice, of ſuch proceedings might have taught them better.

As ſoon as the New England puritans began to breathe a little from the diſſenſions, and had their hands tied up from perſecuting the quakers and anababtiſts, they fell, not long after, into another madneſs of a ſtill more extraordinary and dangerous kind, which, like an epidemical diſeaſe, ran through the whole country, and which is one of the moſt extraordinary deluſions recorded in hiſtory. This tragedy began in the year 1692.

In New England is a town, which they fanatically called Salem, of which one Paris

was

was miniſter. He had two daughters troubled with convulſions, which being attended with ſome of thoſe extraordinary appearances not uncommon in thoſe diſorders, he imagined they were bewitched. As ſoon as he concluded on witchcraft as the cauſe of the diſorder, the next inquiry was to find out the perſon who had bewitched them. He caſt his eyes upon an Indian ſervant woman of his own, whom he had frequently beaten, and uſed her with ſuch ſeverity, that ſhe at laſt confeſſed herſelf the witch, and was committed to priſon, where ſhe lay for a long time. The imaginations of the people were not yet ſufficiently heated to make a very formal buſineſs of this, ſo that they were content to diſcharge her from priſon after a long confinement.

This example ſet the diſcourſe about witchcraft afloat, and ſome people, troubled with a ſimilar complaint, began to fancy themſelves bewitched alſo. Perſons in an ill ſtate of health are naturally fond of finding out cauſes for their diſtempers, eſpecially ſuch as are extraordinary, and call the eyes of the public upon them. There was alſo perhaps ſomething of malice in the caſe; for one of the firſt objects they pitched upon was Mr. Burroughs, a gentleman who had formerly been miniſter at Salem; but upon ſome of the

the religious deſputes which divided the country, he differed with his flock and left them. This man and two others were tried for witchcraft, by a ſpecial commiſſion of oyer and terminer, directed to ſome of the gentlemen of the beſt fortunes, and reputed to be ſome of the moſt ſenſible men in the country. Before theſe judges a piece of evidence was delivered, the moſt weak and childiſh, the moſt repugnant to itſelf, and to common-ſenſe, that perhaps ever was known upon any ſerious occaſion; yet by theſe judges, upon that evidence, and the verdict founded upon it, this miniſter, a man of moſt unexceptionable character, and two others, irreproachable in their lives, were ſentenced to die, and accordingly hanged. Theſe victims of the popular madneſs were then ſtripped naked, and their bodies thrown into a pit, half covered with earth, and left to the diſcretion of birds and wild beaſts. Upon the ſame kind of evidence, in a little time after, ſixteen more ſuffered death, the greater part dying in the moſt exemplary ſentiments of piety, and with the ſtrongeſt profeſſions of their innocence.

The flame occaſioned by theſe executions ſpread with rage and rapidity into every part of the country. Neither the tenderneſs of youth, the infirmity of age, the honour of the

the ſex, the ſacredneſs of the miniſtry, nor the reſpectable condition of fortune or character, was the leaſt protection. Children of eleven years old were taken up for ſorceries; the women were ſtripped in the moſt ſhameful manner, to ſearch them for magical teats; the ſcorbutic ſtains, common on the ſkins of old people, were called the devil's pinches; and this was indiſputable evidence againſt them. What theſe extraordinary teſtimonies wanted was completed by the torture, by which a number of theſe unhappy victims were driven to confeſs whatever their tormentors thought proper to dictate to them. Some women owned they had lain with the devil, and other things equally abominable and ridiculous; others fled the province, and many more were preparing to fly. The priſons were crowded, people were executed daily, yet the rage of the accuſers was as freſh as ever, and the number of the witches and the bewitched encreaſed every hour.

They began at laſt to accuſe the judges themſelves, and witchcraft began to approach even the governor's family, when it became high time to give things another turn. The accuſers were diſcouraged by authority, and one hundred and fifty, who lay in priſon, were diſcharged. Two hundred more, who were under accuſation, were not brought to

trial; and thoſe who had received ſentence of death were reprieved, and ſoon after pardoned. A few cool moments ſhewed them the groſs and ſtupid error that had carried them away, and which was utterly inviſible to them all the time they were engaged in this ſtrange perſecution. They grew heartily aſhamed for what they had done; but what was infinitely mortifying, the quakers took occaſion to attribute all this miſchief to a judgment on them for their perſecution.

This violent fit carried off ſo much of that humour, that the people ſoon grew like the reſt of mankind in their manners and conduct. As ſoon as theſe troubles were abated, they began every day to extend their ſettlements, and to encreaſe in ſtrength, power, and riches, till they arrived at that ſtate of conſequence in which we now ſee them, totally independent of the mother country, and their alliance courted by all the powers of Europe. It is not eaſy to ſay, how long they may agree among themſelves, or how long ſo vaſt a continent as North America may ſubmit to the dictates of a congreſs. Jealous as the colonies have ever been of each other, tenacious as they are of their liberties, and ſo ready to catch fire at the leaſt ſpark of impreſſion, the ſettlement of a regular government among them will perhaps be a difficult taſk. Intoxi-

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cated with their new poſſeſſion of independence they may run into thoſe errors, which may lay the foundation of ſlavery; and while they are ſhaking off the ſhackles of the mother country, they may be imperceptibly forging chains for themſelves of a more durable nature. Nothing, however, can be more abſurd and ridiculous, than the eagerneſs which many people ſhew to emigrate to this new Land of Liberty, before they know what form of government they are to live under, what encouragement they are likely to meet with, or what laws there may be for the ſecurity of their property. Theſe miſtaken emigrants, like thouſands before them in all ages, may leave a bad country for a worſe; and, inſtead of the riches, peace, and tranquillity, which they flatter themſelves they ſhall enjoy in croſſing the Atlantic, they may perhaps be forced to take an active part in the ſcenes of war, deſolation, and ſlaughter.

As ſoon, however, as their government ſhall be ſettled, the ſtate of commerce muſt undergo a total revolution. The United Provinces of America, inſtead of depending on the mother country, will themſelves become manufacturors; unreſtrained by commercial laws, they will waft their commodities to every quarter of the globe, and re-

ceive what they want in exchange; they will become our rivals in the markets of Europe, and alſo in the trade to the Eaſt and Weſt Indies. The treaſures of Mexico and Peru will no longer flow into Spain, but will circulate through that continent where they have their ſource, in exchange for its different commodities, and manufactures. This circulation will give activity to every branch of trade, and vigour to every ſpecies of induſtry; while the commerce of Europe, deprived of its enlivening principle, will ſink into a ſtate of expiring languor. Her luxuries unfed by the fountains that ſupported them, will prey upon their vitals; and her preſent lucrative trade to India, now America is loſt, will not only prove unprofitable but ruinous.

Melancholy and gloomy are the reflections which ariſe from contemplating the inſtability of all human affairs, whether we apply thoſe reflections to the fortune of nations or individuals. The fortune of no nation was ever higher than that of the Engliſh, at the comencement of the preſent reign. Beſides our rich poſſeſſions in the Eaſt and Weſt Indies, or thoſe on the coaſt of Africa, all enlarged by a ſeries of the moſt extraordinary ſucceſs, without including Hudſon's Bay, Newfoundland, or the other iſlands of North America,

America, we were maſters of all that vaſt continent, which ſtretches from the mouth of St. Laurence, to that of the Miſſiſippi, and from the Atlantic ocean to the South ſea, the moſt extenſive empire that ever was formed on the face of the earth. Nor was this a barren or unprofitable territory, as the greater part of it was either cultivated or ſuſceptible of improvement; and it offered to the mother-country, in conjunction with her other conqueſts and ſettlements, the largeſt field that was ever opened to the commerce and induſtry of any people. But the time was ſuddenly to arrive, when that commerce was to be interrupted, that induſtry deprived of its enlivening principle, and the greater part of the empire violently torn from the parent ſtate, by a ſyſtem of the politics the moſt execrable and diſgraceful that ever tarniſhed the page of any hiſtory.

The ancient world had its Oſiris and Erichthonius, who taught them the uſe of grain; their Bacchus who inſtructed them in the culture of the vine; and their Orpheus and Linus, who firſt built towns, and formed civil ſocieties. The people of America will not fail, when time ſhall have made things venerable, when an intermixture of fable ſhall have moulded uſeful truths into popular opinions, and when the late horrid ſcenes of

blood and ſlaughter ſhall be forgotten, to mention with equal gratitude, and perhaps ſimilar heightening circumſtances, her Columbus, her Delawar, her Baltimore, and her Penn. Nor will the Engliſh hiſtorian omit to hand down to eternal infamy, the names of thoſe men, who, through tyranny, wantonneſs, and treachery, laid the foundation of the ruin of Britain, by ſeparating the colonies from the mother-country.

The PERSONS, CUSTOMS, *and* MANNERS *of the original Inhabitants of* NORTH AMERICA.

WHEN the thirſt of gold firſt carried the Europeans beyond the Atlantic, they found the inhabitants of the new world immerſed in what they conſidered as barbarity; but which, however, was a ſtate of honeſt independence and noble ſimplicity.

The native Americans are tall, and ſtraight in their limbs beyond the proportion of moſt nations. Their bodies are ſtrong, but of a ſpecies of ſtrength rather fitted to endure much hardſhip, than to continue long at any ſervile work, by which they are quickly conſumed

ſumed. Their bodies and heads are flattiſh, the effect of art; their features are regular, but their countenances fierce; their hair, long, black, lank, and very ſtrong, but without beards. The colour of their ſkin is a reddiſh brown, which is admired among them, and improved by the conſtant uſe of bear's fat and greaſe.

When the Europeans firſt came into America, they found the people quite naked, excepting thoſe parts, which it is common for the moſt uncivilized people to conceal. Since that time, they have generally a courſe blanket to cover them, which they uſed to buy from us. The whole faſhion of their lives is of a piece: hardy, poor, and ſqualid; and their education, for their infancy, ſolely directed to fit their bodies for this mode of life, and to inform their minds to inflict and to endure the greateſt evils. Their only occupations are hunting and war; their agriculture is left to the women, and merchandize they contemn.

When their hunting ſeaſon is paſt, which they go through with much patience, and in which they exert great ingenuity, they paſs the reſt of their time in an entire indolence. They ſleep half the day in their huts, and obſerve no bounds or decency in their eating and drinking. Before we diſcovered them, they

they had no ſpirituous liquors; but now, the acquirement of theſe is what gives a ſpur to their induſtry, and joy to their repoſe. This is the principal end they purſue in their treaties with us, and from this day they ſuffer inexpreſſible calamities; for, having once begun to drink, they can preſerve no meaſures, but continue in a ſucceſſion of drunkenneſs as long as their means of procuring liquor laſts.

The Indians are grave, even to ſadneſs, in their deportment upon any ſerious occaſion, obſervant of thoſe in company, reſpectful to the old, and of a temper cool and deliberate.

They are never in haſte to ſpeak before they have thought well of the matter, and are ſure the perſon who ſpoke before them has finiſhed all he has to ſay. They have therefore the greateſt contempt for the vivacity of the Europeans, who interrupt each other, and frequently ſpeak all together. In their public councils and aſſemblies, every man is heard in his turn, according as his years, his wiſdom, or his ſervices to his country, have ranked him. Not a word, not a whiſper, not a murmur heard from the reſt while he ſpeaks; no indecent condemnation, no ill-timed applauſe. The younger claſs attend for their inſtruction, and here they learn the hiſtory of their nation; here they

hey are inflamed with the ſongs of thoſe who celebrate the warlike actions of their anceſtors; nd here they are taught what are the inte-reſts of their country, and how to purſue hem.

Though the American Indian is naturally humane and hoſpitable, yet, to the enemies of his country, or to thoſe who have private-y offended him, he is implacable. He con-ceals his reſentments, he appears reconciled, till by ſome treachery or ſurpriſe he has an opportunity of executing a horrible revenge. No length of time is ſufficient to allay his reſentment, no diſtance of place great enough to protect the object; he croſſes the ſteepeſt mountains, he pierces the moſt impervious foreſts, and traverſes the moſt hideous bogs and deſerts for ſome hundreds of miles, bear-ing the inclemency of the ſeaſons, the fa-tigue of the expedition, the extremities of hunger and thirſt, with patience and chear-fulneſs, in hopes of ſurpriſing his enemy, on whom he exerciſes the moſt ſhocking barba-rities. To ſuch extremes do the Indians puſh their friendſhip or enmity, and ſuch indeed in general is the character of all ſtrong and uncultivated minds. Notwithſtanding this ferocity, no people have the appearance of anger more under their command.

The Americans have ſcarce any temples; for

for, as they live by hunting, inhabit mean cottages, and are given to change their habitations, they are ſeldom very religious. Some appear to have little ideas of God; others entertain better notions, and hold the exiſtence of the ſupreme Being, eternal and uncorruptible, who has power over all. Satisfied with owning this, which is traditionary among them, they pay him no ſort of worſhip. Though without religion, they are great obſervers of omens and dreams, and pry into futurity with great eagerneſs. They abound in diviners, augurs, and magicians, whom they rely much upon in all affairs that concern them, whether of health, war, or hunting.

Their phyſic, which may rather be called magic, is entirely in the hands of the prieſts; and theſe phyſicians generally treat them, in whatever diſorder, in the ſame way. They firſt encloſe them in a narrow cabin, in the midſt of which is a ſtone red hot. On this they throw water, till the patient is well ſoaked with the warm vapour and his own ſweat; they hurry him from the bagnio, and plunge him ſuddenly into the next river. This is repeated as often as they judge neceſſary, and by this method extraordinary cures are ſometimes performed. It frequently happens, however, that this rude method kills the

the patient in the very operation, eſpecially in the new diſorders brought to them from Europe.

The darling paſſion of the Americans is liberty, and that in its fulleſt extent; to liberty the native Indians ſacrifice every thing. This is what makes a life of uncertainty and want ſupportable to them, and their education is directed in ſuch a manner as to cheriſh this diſpoſition to the utmoſt. They are indulged in all manner of liberty; they are never, upon any account, chaſtiſed with blows, and very rarely even chidden. Reaſon they ſay, will guide their children when they come to the uſe of it, and before that their faults cannot be very great; but blows might abate their free and martial ſpirits which makes the glory of their people, and might render the ſenſe of the honour duller, by the habit of a ſlaviſh motive to action. It may not be amiſs here to obſerve, that though this mode of bringing up a young Indian in the wilds of America may be juſtifiable, fatal would be the conſequence, ſhould any Britiſh parent adopt ſuch a conduct here, where innumerable temptations every day offer to allure the unwary youth into the paths of folly, diſſipation, and vice; temptations that are unknown in the immenſe woods and foreſts of America; temptations, which

which often prove the introduction to those crimes and irregularities, at the recital of which even those we stigmatize with the name barbarians would blush.

Though some tribes are found in America with a kind of king at their head, yet his power is rather persuasive than coercive, and he is reverenced as a father, more than feared as a monarch. He has no guards, no prisons, no officers of justice. In some tribes there are a kind of nobility, who, when they come to years of discretion, are entitled to a place and vote in their councils of the nation. But among the Five Nations, or Iroquois, the most celebrated commonwealth of North America, and in some other nations, there is no other qualification absolutely necessary for the head men, but age, with ability and experience in their affairs. These heads of tribes and families, with such whose capacity has elevated them to the same degree of consideration, compose their great council. They meet in a house, which they have in each of their towns for the purpose, upon every solemn occasion, to receive ambassadors, to deliver them an answer, to sing their traditionary war songs, or to commemorate their dead. Here they propose all such matters concerning the state, as have already been digested in the secret councils, at which none

none but the head men aſſiſt. Here it is their orators are employed, and diſplay thoſe talents, which diſtinguiſh them for eloquence and knowledge of public buſineſs, in both of which ſome of them are admirable.

When ever any buſineſs of conſequence is to be tranſacted, they appoint a feaſt, of which almoſt the whole nation partakes. There are ſmaller feaſts upon matters of leſs general concern, to which none are invited but thoſe who are engaged in that particular buſineſs. At theſe feaſts it is againſt all rule to leave any thing; ſo that, if they cannot eat all, what remains is thrown into the fire. They look upon fire as a thing ſacred, and in all probability theſe feaſts were anciently ſacrifices. Before the entertainment is ready, the principal perſon begins a ſong, the ſubject of which is the fabulous or real hiſtory of their nation, the remarkable events which have happened, and whatever matters may make for their honour or inſtruction. The others ſing in their turn. They have dances too, with which they accompany their ſongs, chiefly of a martial kind; and no ſolemnity or public buſineſs is carried on without ſuch ſongs or dances.

The charge of the internal peace and order is likewiſe committed to the ſame council of their elders, which regulates whatever re-

gards the external policy of the ſtate. Their ſuits are few, and quickly decided, having neither property nor art enough to render them perplexed or tedious. In ordinary and criminal caſes, the crime is either revenged or compromiſed by the parties concerned. In caſes of murder, the criminal generally abſents himſelf. His friends ſend a compliment of condolence to thoſe of the party murdered, and preſents are offered, which are rarely refuſed. The head of the family appears, and in a formal ſpeech delivers the preſents, which often conſiſt of above ſixty articles, every one of which is given to cancel ſome part of the offence, and to aſſuage the grief of the ſuffering party. With the firſt he ſays, "By this I remove the hatchet from the wound, and make it fall out of the hands of him who is prepared to revenge the injury." With the ſecond, "I dry up the blood of that wound;" and ſo on, in apt figures, taking away one by one all the ill conſequences of the murder. As uſual, the whole ends in mutual feaſting, ſongs, and dances.

The loſs of any of their people, whether by a natural death or by war, is lamented by the whole town he belongs to. In ſuch circumſtances, no buſineſs is taken in hand, however important, nor any rejoicings permitted, however intereſting the occaſion, until

until all the pious ceremonies due to the dead are performed. These are always discharged with the greatest solemnity. The dead body is washed, anointed, and painted, so as in some measure to abate the horrors of death. Then the women lament the loss with the most bitter cries, and the most hideous howling, intermixed with songs, which celebrate the great actions of the deceased, and those of his ancestors. The men mourn in a less extravagant manner. The whole village attends the body to the grave, which is interred, habited in their most sumptuous ornaments. With the body of the deceased are placed his bow and arrows, with what he valued most in his life, and provisions for the long journey he is to take; for they hold the immortality of the soul universally, but their idea is gross. Feasting attends this, as it does every solemnity.

After the funeral, those who are nearly allied to the deceased, conceal themselves in their huts for a considerable time, to indulge their grief. After some time, they revisit the grave, renew their sorrow, fresh clothe the remains of the body, and act over again the solemnities of the first funeral. But no instance of regard to their deceased friends are so striking as what they call the Feast of the Dead, or the Feast of Souls. The day of

this ceremony is appointed in the council of their chiefs, who give orders for every thing that may enable them to celebrate it with pomp and magnificence. The neighbouring people are invited to partake of the feaſt, and to be witneſs of the ſolemnity. At this time, all who have died ſince the laſt ſolemn feaſt of that kind are taken out of their graves. Thoſe who have been interred at the greateſt diſtance from the villages are generally ſought for, and brought to this great rendezvous of carcaſſes. It is difficult to conceive the horror of this general diſinterment; but I cannot paint it in a more lively manner, then it is already done by Lafitau.

"Without queſtion, (ſays he) the opening of theſe tombs diſplay one of the moſt ſtriking ſcenes that can be conceived. This humbling portrait of human miſery, in ſo many images of death, wherein ſhe ſeems to take a pleaſure to paint herſelf in a thouſand various ſhapes of horror, in the carcaſſes, according to the degree in which time has prevailed over them. Some appear dry and withered, others have a ſort of parchment on their bones, ſome look as if they were baked and then ſmoaked, without any appearance of decay; while others form a ſcene too indelicate to be here deſcribed. I know not which ought to affect us moſt, the horror of

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ſo ſtriking a ſight, or the tender piety and affection of the poor people towards their departed friends; for nothing deſerves our admiration more, than that eager diligence and attention, with which they diſcharge this melancholy duty of their tenderneſs, gathering up carefully even the ſmalleſt bones; handling the carcaſſes, diguſtful as they are, with every thing lotheſome; cleaning them from the worms, and carrying them upon their ſhoulders, through tireſome journies of ſeveral days, without being diſcouraged by the moſt diſagreeable ſmells, and without ſuffering any other emotions to ariſe, than thoſe of regret, for having loſt perſons who were ſo dear to them in their lives, and ſo lamented in their death."

This ſtrange feſtival is the moſt magnificent and ſolemn of any they have, not only on account of the great concourſe of natives and ſtrangers, and of the pompous re-interment they give to their dead, whom they dreſs in the fineſt ſkins they can get, after having expoſed them for ſome time in this pomp, but for the games of all kinds which they celebrate upon the occaſion, in the ſpirit of thoſe which the ancient Greeks and Romans celebrated upon ſimilar occaſions. In this manner do they endeavour to ſooth the calamities of this life, by the honours they pay

their dead. Though among theſe ſavage nations this cuſtom is impreſſed with ſtrong marks of the ferocity of their nature; yet an honour for the dead, a tender feeling of their abſence, and a revival of their memory, are ſome of the moſt excellent inſtruments for ſmoothing our rugged nature into humanity.

Though the women in America have generally the laborious part of the œconomy upon themſelves, yet they are far from being the ſlaves they appear, and are not at all ſubject to the great ſubordination, in which they are placed in countries where they ſeem to be more reſpected. On the contrary, all the honours of the nation are on the ſide of the woman. They even hold their councils, and have their ſhare in all deliberations which concern the ſtate, nor are they found inferior to the part they act. Polygamy is practiſed by ſome nations, but is not general. In moſt, they content themſelves with one wife; but a divorce is admitted, and for the ſame cauſes that it was allowed among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans. No nation of the Americans is without a regular marriage, in which there are many ceremonies; the principal of which is the bride's preſenting the bridegroom with a plate of their corn. Incontinent before wedlock, after marriage the chaſtity of their women are remarkable.

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The puniſhment of the adultereſs, as well as that of the adulterer, is in the hands of the huſband himſelf, and it is often ſevere, being inflicted by one who is at once the party and the judge. Their marriages are not fruitful, ſeldom producing above two or three children; and hence perhaps we may account for the depopulation of America, ſince one war carries off more than can be recruited in many years.

Let us now proceed to enquire into their manner of preparing for war, and the mode in which they carry it on. Almoſt the ſole occupation of the American Indian is war, or ſuch an exerciſe as qualifies him for it. His whole glory conſiſts in this, and no man is at all conſidered until he has encreaſed the ſtrength of his country with a captive, or adorned his hut with the ſcalp of one of his enemies. When the ancients reſolve upon war, they do not always declare what nation it is they are determined to attack, that the enemy, upon whom they really intend to fall, may be off their guard; and they ſometimes even let whole years paſs over without committing any act of hoſtility, that the vigilance of all may be unbent by the long continuance of the watch, and the uncertainty of the danger.

In the mean time, they are not idle at home.

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The principal captain ſummons the youth of the town to which he belongs, the war-kettle is ſet on the fire, the war ſongs and dances commence, the hatchet is ſent to the villages and allies of the ſame nation, and the moſt hideous howlings continue without intermiſſion, day and night, over the whole tract of country. The women add their cries to thoſe of the men, lamenting thoſe whom they have either loſt in war or by natural death, and demanding their places to be ſupplied by their enemies.

The fury of the nation being thus raiſed to the greateſt height, and all long to embrue their hands in blood, the war captain prepares the feaſt, which conſiſts of dog's fleſh. All that partake of this feaſt receive little billets, which are ſo many engagements they take to be faithful to each other, and obedient to their commander. None are forced to the war; but when they have accepted this billet, they are looked upon as enliſted and it is then death to recede. All the warriors in this aſſembly have their faces blackened with charcoal, intermixed with daſhes and ſtreaks of vermillion, which give them a moſt horrid appearance. Their hair is dreſſed up in an odd manner, with feathers of various kinds. In this aſſembly, which is preparatory to their military expedition, the

he chief begins the war ſong, which having ontinued for ſome time, he raiſes his voice o the higheſt pitch, and turning off ſuddenly o a ſort of prayer, he addreſſes himſelf to he god of war, whom they call Aretkoni. I invoke thee, (ſays he) to be favourable to y enterpriſe! I invoke thy care upon me nd my family! I invoke ye likewiſe, all ye pir ts, and dæm ons good and evil! all ye hat are in the ſkies, or on the eart , or un- er the earth, to pour deſtruction upon our n mies, and to return me and my compani- ns ſafely to my country!" All the warriors in him in this prayer with ſhouts and accla- ations. The captain renews his ſong, rikes his club againſt the ſtakes of his cot- ge, and begins the war dance, accompanied ith the ſhouts of all his companions, which ontinue as long as he dances.

On the day appointed for their departure, ey take leave of their friends; they change eir clothes, or whatev r moveables they ave, in token of friendſhip. Their wives nd female relations go out before them, and ttend at ſome diſtance from the town. The arriors all march out dreſſed all in their fineſt pparel and moſt ſhewy ornaments, regularly ne after another, for they never march in ank. Their chief walks ſlowly on before em, ſinging the death-ſong, while the reſt

obſerve

obſerve the moſt profound ſilence. When they come up to the women, they deliver up to them all their finery, put on their worſt clothes, and then proceed as their commander directs.

The Indians ſeldom engage in a war upon motives common to Europe; they have no other end but the glory of victory, or the benefit of the ſlaves which it enables them to add to their nation, or ſacrifice to their brutal fury; and it is very ſeldom that they take any pains to give their wars even a colour of juſtice. They fall ſometimes on one nation, and ſometimes on another, and ſurpriſe ſome of their hunters, whom they ſcalp and bring home as priſoners. Their ſenators wink at this, or rather encourage it, as it tends to keep up the martial ſpirit of their people, enures them to watchfulneſs and hardſhips, and gives them an early taſte for blood. The qualities of an Indian war are vigilance and attention, to give and avoid a ſurpriſe, and patience and ſtrength to endure the intolerable fatigues and hardſhips which always attend it.

They often enter a village, while the ſtrength of the nation is employed in hunting, and maſſacre all the helpleſs old men, women and children, or make priſoners of as many as they can manage, or have ſtrength enough to be

uſeful to their nation. They often cut off all parties of men in their huntings; but hen they diſcover any army of their ene-ies, their way is to throw themſelves flat their faces among the withered leaves, e colour of which their bodies are painted actly to reſemble. They generally let a rt paſs unmoleſted, and then, riſing a little, ey take aim, they being excellent markſ-en, and ſetting up a moſt tremendous ſhout, hich they call the war-cry, they pour a orm of muſquet-bullets upon the enemy; r they have long ſince laid aſide the uſe of rows. The party attacked returns the me cry. Every man in haſte covers himſelf ith a tree, and returns the fire of the ad-rſe party, as ſoon as they raiſe themſelves om the ground to give the ſecond diſ-harge.

Having fought ſome time in this manner, e party which thinks it has the advantage, uſhes out of its cover, with ſmall axes in eir hands, which they dart with great ad-reſs and dexterity. They redouble their ries, intimidating their enemies with me-aces, and encouraging each other with a oaſtful diſplay of their own brave actions. Thus, being come hand to hand, the conteſt ſoon decided, and the conquerors ſatiate eir ſavage fury with the moſt ſhocking in-

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ſults and barbarities to the dead, biting their flesh, tearing their ſcalps from their heads, and wallowing in their blood, like the ſavage inhabitants of the woods.

Miſerable indeed is the fate of their priſoner. During the greater part of their journey homewards they ſuffer no injury; but when they arrive at the territories of the conquering ſtate, or at thoſe of their allies, the people from every village meet them, and think they ſhew their attachment to their friends by their barbarous treatment of the unhappy victims; ſo that when they come to their ſtation, they are wounded and bruiſed in a terrible manner. The conquerors enter the town in triumph. The war captain waits upon the head-men, and in a low voice gives them a circumſtantial account of every particular of the expedition, of the damages the enemy has ſuffered, and his own loſs in it. This done, the public orator relates the whole to the people. Before they yield to the joy which the victory occaſions, they lament the friends they have loſt in the purſuit of it. The parties moſt nearly concerned are apparently afflicted with a deep and real ſorrow; but, by one of thoſe ſtrange turns of the human mind, faſhioned to any thing by cuſtom, as if they were diſciplined in their grief, upon the ſignal for rejoicing, in a moment all tears are

wiped

wiped from their eyes, and they ruſh into an extravagance and phrenzy of joy for their victory. All this time, the fate of the priſoners remain undecided, until the old men meet, and determine concerning their diſtribution.

It is uſual to offer a ſlave to each houſe that has loſt a friend, giving the preference according to the greatneſs of the loſs. The perſon who has taken the captive attends him to the door of the party's cottage, where he diſivers him, and with him gives a belt of wampum, to ſhew that he has fulfilled the purpoſe of the expedition, in ſupplying the loſs of a citizen. They for ſome time view the preſent that is made them, and according as they think him or her, for the ſex matters not, proper or improper for the buſineſs of the family, or as they take a capricious liking or diſpleaſure to the countenance of the victim, or in proportion to their natural barbarity, or their reſentment for their loſſes, they deſtine concerning him, to receive him into the family, or ſentence him to death. If they be received into the family, happy is their lot, as they are then accepted into the place of the father, ſon, or huſband, that is loſt; and they have no other mark of their captivity, but that of not being ſuffered to return to their own country, to attempt which

would be certain death. On the contrary, if they diſlike the captive, they throw away the belt with indignation. Then it is no longer in the power of any one to ſave him, the nation is aſſembled as upon ſome great ſolemnity, a ſcaffold is raiſed, and the priſoner tied to the ſtake. He inſtantly begins his death ſong, and prepares for the enſuing ſcene of cruelty with the moſt undaunted courage. On the other ſide, they prepare to put it to the utmoſt proof, with every torment that the mind of man ingenious in miſchief can deviſe.

They begin at the extremities of his body, and gradually approach the trunk. One plucks out his nails by the roots, one by one; another takes a finger into his mouth, and tears off the fleſh with his teeth; a third thruſts the finger, mangled as it is, into the bowl of a pipe made red hot, which he ſmoaks like tobacco. They then pound his fingers and toes to pieces between two ſtones; they cut circles about his joints, and gaſhes in the fleſhy parts of his limbs, which they immediately ſear with red-hot irons, cutting and ſearing alternately. They pull off this fleſh, thus mangled and roaſted, bit by bit, devouring it with greedineſs, and ſmearing their faces with the blood, in an enthuſiaſm of horror and fury. When they have thus torn off

off the flesh, they twist the bare nerves and tendons round an iron, tearing and snapping them; while others are employed in pulling and extending the limbs themselves, in every way that can encrease the torment.

This often continues five or six hours together. Then they frequently unbind him, to give a breathing to their fury, to think what new torments they shall inflict, and to refresh the strength of the sufferer, who, wearied out with such a variety of cruel torments, often falls immediately into so profound a sleep, that they are obliged to apply the fire to awaken him, and renew his sufferings. He is again fastened to the stake, and again they renew their cruelty. They stick him all over with small matches of wood that easily takes fire, but burns slowly; they continually run sharp reeds into every part of his body; they drag out his teeth with pinchers, and thrust out his eyes; and lastly, after having burned his flesh from the bones, with slow fires; after having so mangled the body, that it is all but one wound; after having mutilated his face in such a manner as to carry nothing human in it; after having peeled the skin from his head, and poured a heap of red-hot coals or boiling water on the naked skull, one of the chiefs, out of compassion, or weary with cruelty, gene-

rally puts an end to his life with a club or a dagger. The body is then put into the kettle and this barbarous employment is succeeded by a feaſt equally unhuman.

On this occaſion, the women, forgetting the female nature, and transformed into ſomething worſe than furies, act their parts, and even outdo the men in this ſcene of horror. The principal perſons of the country ſet round the ſtake ſmoaking, and looking on without the leaſt emotion. What is moſt extraordinary, the ſufferer himſelf, in the little intervals of his torments, ſmoaks alſo, appears unconcerned, and converſes with his torturers about indifferent matters. Indeed, during the whole time of his execution, there ſeems a conteſt between him and them which ſhall exceed, they inflicting the moſt horrid pains, or he in enduring them with a firmneſs and conſtancy almoſt above human. Not a groan, not a ſigh, not a diſtorſion of countenance eſcapes him; he poſſeſſes his mind entirely in the midſt of his torments; he recounts his own exploits, informs them what cruelties he had inflicted upon their countrymen, and threatens them with the revenge that will attend his death; and though his reproaches exaſperate them to a perfect ſtate of madneſs, rage, and fury, he continues his reproaches even of their ignorance

in

in the art of tormenting, pointing out himſelf more exquiſite methods, and more ſenſible parts of the body to be afflicted.

We do not dwell upon theſe circumſtances of cruelty, which ſo much degrade human nature, out of choice; but as all, who mention the cuſtoms of this people, have very particularly inſiſted upon their behaviour in this reſpect, and as it ſeems neceſſary in order to give a true idea of their character, we did not chuſe to omit it. It ſerves to ſhew, in the ſtrongeſt light, to what an inconceivable degree of barbarity the paſſions of men let looſe will carry them. It will point out to us the advantages of a religion that teaches a compaſſion to our enemies, which is neither known nor practiſed in other religions; and it will make us more ſenſible, than ſome appear to be, of the value of commerce, the arts of a civilized life, and the lights of literature, which, if they have abated the force of ſome of the natural virtues by the luxury which attends them, have taken out likewiſe the ſting of our national vices, and ſoftened the ferocity of the human race without enervating their courage. On the other hand, the conſtancy of the ſufferers in this terrible ſcene, ſhews the wonderful powers of an early inſtitution, and a ferocious thirſt of glory,

which makes men imitate and exceed what philoſophy, or even religion, can produce.

The manners of the native Indians afford many other matters of inſtructive reflection, and ſuch as are proper to engage the curioſity; but we ſhall content ourſelves with having mentioned the moſt ſtriking and fitteſt to be inſiſted on in a work, the narrow limits of which will allow us to receive only eſſential matters. We ſhall now proceed to the deſcription of the Thirteen United States of America, according to their modern diviſion, in the following order; 1. New Hampſhire; 2. Maſſachuſetts-bay; 3. Rhode Iſland and Providence Plantation; 4. Connecticut; 5. New York; 6. New Jerſey; 7. Pennſylvania; 8. Delaware; 9. Maryland; 10. Virginia; 11. North Carolina; 12. South Carolina; 13. Georgia.

DESCRIPTION *of the* THIRTEEN UNITED STATES *of* NORTH AMERICA.

1. NEW HAMPSHIRE; 2. MASSACHUSETTS-BAY. 3. RHODE ISLAND *and* PROVIDENCE PLANTATION. 4. CONNECTICUT.

BEFORE America aſſerted and maintained her independence, theſe four provinces were united under the general title of NEW ENGLAND, ſituated between forty one and forty-ſix degrees of north latitude, and between ſixty-ſeven and ſeventy four of weſt longitude, being about three hundred and fifty miles long, and two hundred broad. Theſe provinces are bounded by Nova Scotia on the north eaſt, by Canada on the weſt, by New York on the ſouth, and by the Atlantic ocean on the eaſt.

Though this country is ſituated almoſt ten degrees nearer the ſun than we are in England, yet their winter begins earlier, laſts longer, and is incomparably more ſevere than it is with us. The ſummer again is extremely hot, and more fervently ſo than in places which lie under the ſame parallels in Europe. However, both the heat and cold are now far more moderate, and the conſtitution of the air in all reſpects far better, than our people found

found it at the firſt ſettlement. The clearing away of the woods, and the opening of the ground every where, have, by giving a free paſſage to the air, carried off thoſe noxious vapours, which were ſo prejudicial to the healths of the firſt inhabitants. The temper of the ſky is generally, both in ſummer and winter, very ſteady and ſerene. Two months frequently paſs without the appearance of a cloud; and their rains, though they are heavy, do not continue any long time.

The ſoil of theſe provinces is various, but beſt as you approach the ſouthward. They afford excellent meadows in the low grounds, and have very good paſture almoſt every where. This country however, is not very favourable to any of the European kinds of grain: the wheat is apt to be blaſted, the barley is a hungry grain, and the oats are lean and chaffy; but the Indian corn flouriſhes here, which is the general food of the lower claſs of people.

In theſe provinces are a great variety of valuable timber, ſuch as oak, aſh, cedar, fir, pine, elm, beech, cyprus, and various woods uſed in dying and ſhip building. Though their oaks are not ſo valuable as thoſe of England, yet their firs are of an amazing bulk, and uſed to furniſh the Britiſh navy with maſts and yards. They have mines of iron

on, of an excellent kind and temper, which article they will probably ſoon val the trade of Sweden. The horned cattle of theſe provinces are very numerous, and ome of them very large; hogs likewiſe are numerous, and their fleſh excellent. They ave a ſmall breed of horſes, which are extremely hardy; and their ſheep are numerous, and of a good kind. Their wool is of ſtaple ſufficiently long; but it is not nearly ſo fine as that of England. However, hey manufacture a great deal of it very ſucceſſfully, and their courſe drabs are ſaid to be nperior, for the ordinary wear of country people, to any thing we make in England.

Here are likewiſe elks, deers, bears wolves, ox s, and many other animals; as alſo almoſt all the fowls common in England, but n much greater quantities. Their reptiles re rattle-ſnakes, frogs, and toads, which warm in the uncleared parts of this country, where, in concert with the owls they nake a moſt hideous noiſe in ſummer evenings. Their ſeas abound with fiſh, and even whales are no ſtrangers to their coaſts.

Of theſe four provinces, New Hampſhire s much the largeſt, but not inhabited in proportion, and is more northerly, for the greater part, than either of the reſt. Rhode Iſland conſiſts of a ſmall iſland of that name, and

the

the old plantation of Providence. Connecticut lies upon a river of the ſame name to the ſouth of Maſſachuſetts-bay; but the moſt conſiderable of theſe four provinces is Maſſachuſetts-bay, when conſidered in point of riches and number of people, though not in extent of territory.

Though there are in each of theſe four provinces large towns, which drive a conſiderable trade, yet the only one that can deſerve to be inſiſted on in a work circumſcribed like this, is Boſton, the capital of Maſſachuſetts-bay, and the firſt city of all North America. The commercial advantages of theſe four provinces, and particularly of the town of Boſton, are ſo great, as may probably ſoon raiſe the jealouſy of the other provinces, and ſow thoſe ſeeds of diſſenſion among them, which may ſpring up to evils, productive of calamities greater than thoſe they felt during their ſtruggles for independency.

The commodities of theſe provinces are principally maſts and yards; pitch, tar, and turpentine; ſtaves, lumber, and boards; all ſorts of proviſions, as beef, pork, butter, and cheeſe, in large quantities; horſes and live cattle; Indian corn and peaſe; and cyder, apples, hemp, and flax. Their peltry trade has not hitherto been very conſiderable; but it will probably ſoon riſe to a great height.

They

hey have a very noble cod-fiſhery on their aſt, which employed a vaſt number of their ople, by which they were enabled to ex- rt annually above thirty two thouſand intals of choice cod-fiſh to Spain, Italy, d the Mediterranean, and about nineteen ouſand quintals of the refuſe ſort to the eſt Indies, as food for the negroes. The uantity of ſpirits, which they diſtilled in oſton from the molaſſes they brought in om all parts of the Weſt Indies, is as ſur- iſing as the cheap rate at which they for- erly ſold it, which was under two ſhillings gallon. With this they ſupplied almoſt all e conſumption of our late colonies in North merica, the Indian trade there, the vaſt de- ands of their own and the Newfoundland hery, and in a great meaſure thoſe of the frican trade; but they were more famous r the quantity and cheapneſs, than for the oodneſs of their rum.

They were almoſt the only one of our late olonies, which had much of the woollen and en manufactures among them. Of the rmer, the have nearly as much as ſuffices r their own cloathing. A number of preſ- yterians from the north of Ireland, driven ence, as it is ſaid, by the ſeverity of their ndlords, from an affinity in religious ſenti- ents, choſe New England as a place of re-

fuge.

fuge. Thoſe people carried with them their ſkill in the linen manufactures, and meeting with very great encouragement, they exerciſed it to the great emolument of that colony. Hats were long ſince made in New England, though prohibited by the mother-country, and, in a clandeſtine way, found a good vent in all the other colonies. The ſetting up of theſe manufactures was in a great meaſure neceſſary to them; for as they had not been properly encouraged in ſome ſtaple commodity, by which they might communicate with England, while they were cut off from all other reſources, they muſt either have abandoned the country, or have found means of employing their own ſkill and induſtry to draw out of it the neceſſaries of life. The ſame neceſſity, together with their conveniences for building and manning ſhips, made them the carriers for the other colonies. It is not improbable, that the oppreſſions of the Britiſh ſenate, and the ignorance, tyranny, and folly of our miniſters, awakened them to a ſenſe of their power, and gave riſe to that ſpirit of diſaffection, which firſt broke out in this colony, and ended in the poſſeſſion of independence.

Ship-building was one of the moſt conſiderable branches of buſineſs, which Boſton, or the other ſea port towns in New England carried

carried on. Ships were there ſometimes built by commiſſion; but, generally, the merchants of New England had them conſtructed on their own account, and loading them with the produce of the colony, naval ſtores, fiſh, and fiſh-oil principally, they ſent them out on a trading voyage to Spain, Portugal, or the Mediterranean, where, having diſpoſed of their cargo, they made what advantage whichthe could by freight, until ſuch time as they could ſell the veſſel itſelf to advantage, they ſeldom failed to do in a reaſonable time. They received the value of the veſſel, as well as of the freight of goods, which from time to time they carried, and of the cargo with which they ſailed originally, in bills of exchange upon London; for as the people of New England had no commodity to return for the value of above an hundred thouſand pounds, which they took in various ſorts of goods from England, but ſome naval ſtores, and thoſe in great quantities, they were obliged to keep the balance ſomewhat even by their circuitous commerce, which, though not carried on with Great-Britain, nor with Britiſh veſſels, yet centered in its profits, where all the money, which the colonies could make in any manner, muſt have centered in the end. If ſuch were the trade and conſequence of this colony, while ſhack-

ed in ſo many reſpects by the mother-country, to what a height may we ſoon expect to ſee it riſe, ſhould not inteſtine broils ſtop its flight, now it has acquired a free trade and independence.

The town of Boſton is ſituated upon a peninſula, or rather an iſland joining to the continent by an iſthmus, or narrow neck of land, half a mile in length, at the bottom of a noble and ſpacious harbour, defended from the ſea by a number of ſmall iſlands. The length of it is nearly two miles, and the breadth of it half an one. The buildings in Boſton are generally good, the ſtreets are open and ſpacious, and well paved, and the whole has the air of ſome of our beſt country towns in England. The country round about it is exceedingly delightful; and from the celebrated Bunker's Hill, which ſtands at a little diſtance from the town, is a moſt beautiful proſpect.

Arts and ſciences ſeem to have made a greater progreſs here than in any other parts of America. The arts are undeniably much forwarder in Maſſachuſetts bay, than either in Pennſylvania or New York, and the public buildings are more elegant; here is alſo a more general taſte for muſic, painting, and the *belles letters*, than in the other provinces.

The character of the inhabitants of Maſſachuſetts

huſetts-bay is much improved, in compari-
n of what it was; but puritaniſm, and a
irit of perſecution, are not yet totally ex-
inguiſhed, the gentry of both ſexes are hoſ-
itable and good-natured, and there is an air
f civility in their behaviour; but it is con-
rained by formality and preciſeneſs. Even
he women, in this province, appear with
ore ſtiffneſs and reſerve than in the other
olonies. They are formed with ſymmetry,
re handſome, and have fair and delicate com-
lexions; but they are ſaid univerſally, and
ven proverbially to have very indifferent
eth.

I cannot take leave of Maſſachuſetts-bay
ithout relating a very extraordinary ſtory,
ommunicated to me by perſons of undoubted
redit, as it tends further to illuſtrate the cha-
acter and manner of its inhabitants.

Several years ſince, a commander of one
f his majeſty's ſhips of war, being ſtationed
t this place, had orders to cruize from time
o time, in order to protect our trade, and
iſtreſs that of the French. It happened un-
uckily, that he returned from one of his
ruizes on a Sunday; and, as he had left his
ady at Boſton, the moment ſhe heard of the
hip's arrival, ſhe haſtened down to the water-
ide, in order to receive him. The captain,
s ſoon as he landed, embraced her with ten-

derneſs

derneſs and affection. This, as there were many ſpectators by, gave great offence, and was conſidered as an act of indecency, and a flagrant profanation of the Sabbath. The next day, therefore, he was ſummoned before the magiſtrates, who, with many rebukes and pious exhortations, ordered him to be publicly whipped. The captain ſtifled his indignation and reſentment as much as poſſible; and as the puniſhment, from the frequency of it, was not attended with any great degree of ignominy or diſgrace, he mixed with the beſt company, was well received by them, and they were apparently good friends.

At length, the time of the ſtation expired, and he was recalled. He went, therefore, with ſeeming concern to take leave of his worthy friends; and, that they might ſpend one happy day more together before their final ſeparation, he invited the principal magiſtrates and ſelect men to dine with him in his ſhip on the day he ſailed. They accepted the invitation, and nothing could be more joyous and convivial than the entertainment he gave them. At length, the fatal moment arrived that was to ſeparate them: the anchor was apeak, the ſails were unfurled, and nothing was wanting but the ſignal to get under way. The captain, after taking an affectionate leave of his worthy friends, accompanied them

them upon deck, where the boatſwain and crew were in readineſs to receive them. He then thanked them afreſh for the civilities they had ſhown him, of which, he ſaid, he ſhould retain an eternal remembrance, and to which he wiſhed it had been in his power to have made a more adequate return. One point of civility only remained to be adjuſted between them, which, as it was in his power, ſo he meant moſt juſtly to recompenſe them. He then reminded them of what had paſſed, and ordering the crew to pinion them, had them brought one by one to the gangway, where the boatſwain ſtripped off their ſhirts, and with a cat of nine tails laid on the back of each forty ſtripes, ſave one, the ſame number the captain had received on ſhore, though not quite in ſo heavy a degree. They were then, amidſt the ſhouts and acclamations of the crew, ſhoved into their boats, and the captain, immediately getting under way, ſailed for England.

5. NEW YORK.

AT what time the Swedes and Dutch made their firſt eſtabliſhment in North America, is not certainly known; but it was undoubtedly

doubtedly posterior to our settlements in Virginia, and prior to that of New England. The Swedes, who were no considerable naval power, had hardly fixed the rudiments of a colony there, when they deserted it. The inhabitants, without protection or assistance, were glad to enter into a coalition with the Dutch, who had settled there upon a better plan, and to submit to the government of the States. The whole tract possessed or claimed by the two nations, whose two colonies were now grown into one, extended from the thirty-eight to the forty-first degree of latitude along the sea-coast, and called it New Belgia, or New Netherlands, which continued in their hands till the reign of Charles the Second.

The Dutch war breaking out in the year 1664, Sir Robert Car, with three thousand men, was sent to reduce it, which he did with so little resistance, as not to afford him any great honour from the conquest. A little after, the Dutch, by way of reprisal, fell upon our colony of Surinam, in South America, and conquered it after much the same opposition that we meet with in the New Netherlands. By the treaty of peace, which was signed at Breda in 1667; it was agreed, that things should remain in the same state they were in at that time, Surinam to the Dutch, and the

New

New Netherlands to the Engliſh. The New Netherlands were not long in our poſſeſſion, before they were divided into three diſtinct provinces, and called New York, New Jerſey and Pennſylvania.

New York is bounded by the rivers Hudſon and Delaware, which divide it from New Jerſey and Pennſylvania, on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt; by New England and the Atlantic ocean, on the eaſt and north eaſt; and by Canada on the north-weſt; being about three hundred miles in length, and one hundred and fifty in breadth, comprehending, within its limits Long Iſland, which lies to the ſouth of Connecticut.

The ſoil and climate of this province admit of no remarkable difference from thoſe of New Jerſey and Pennſylvania, and therefore, what we ſhall here ſay of New York, will be applicable to the other two provinces. Indeed, in theſe, and in all the North American provinces, the land near the ſea is generally low, flat, and marſhy; at a conſiderable diſtance from the ſea, it ſwells into little hills, and then into a larger ſize, even into ridges of mountains, which hold their courſe, for the moſt part, north-eaſt and ſouth-weſt.

The ſoil throughout the provinces of New York, New Jerſey, and Pennſylvania, is in general extremely fruitful, abounding not only

only in its native grain, the Indian corn, but in all ſuch as have been naturalized there from Europe. They have wheat in ſuch abundance and of ſo excellent a quality, that few parts of the world, for the extent of tract that is cultivated, exceed it, in theſe particulars. They have a great number of horned cattle, horſes, ſheep, and hogs. They have all our European poultry in abundance, as well as game of all kinds, and deer of ſeveral ſpecies. The American hares are of a peculiar kind, but inferior in reliſh to ours; their wild turkies are of a vaſt ſize, and equal in goodneſs, and they have a beautiful ſpecies of pheaſant peculiar to theſe provinces.

Every ſpecies of herbs or roots, which are found in the gardens of England, grow here with great eaſe, as do alſo every ſpecies of fruit; but ſome, ſuch as peaches and melons, come to greater, perfection here than in England.

In their foreſts is great plenty of excellent timber, the oak, the aſh, the beech, the cheſnut, the cedar, the walnut, the cypreſs, the the hiccary, the ſaſſafras, and the pine. In all parts of North America, comprehending New York to the northward, quite to the ſouthern extremity, the woods are full of wild vines of three or four ſpecies, all different from thoſe we have in Europe; but, whether

whether from ſome fault in their nature, or in the climate, or the ſoil where they grow, or, what is more probable, from a fault in the planters, they have yet produced no wine that deſerves to be mentioned. It may be remarked in general of the timber of theſe provinces, that it is not ſo good for ſhip building as that of New England and Nova Scotia. The further ſouthward you go, the timber becomes leſs compact, and rives eaſily; which property, while it makes it more uſeful for ſtaves, renders it leſs ſerviceable for ſhipbuilding.

In theſe three provinces, but much the moſt largely in Pennſylvania, they raiſe great quantities of flax, and hemp is a promiſing article; nor are they deficient in minerals. In New York, a great deal of iron is found; and in New Jerſey a very rich copper mine has been opened. There is no manner of doubt, but in time, when they ſhall be able to attend to all the advantages which their independence will naturally give them, and experience has made them ingenious in opening reſources for trade, that theſe provinces will become as remarkable for uſeful metals as they have been for grain, and will give a material ſhock to the trade of thoſe articles in the northern parts of Europe.

As the climate and ſoil of the provinces of New

New York, New Jerſey, and Pennſylvania, are, with very little variation, the ſame, ſo there is no difference in the commodities in which they trade; which are wheat, flour, barley, oats, Indian corn, peaſe, beef, pork, cheeſe, butter, cyder, beer, flax, hemp, and, flax ſeed, linſeed oil, fur and deer-ſkins, ſtaves lumber, and iron.

Having now given a general deſcription of the ſoil and produce of theſe four provinces, we ſhall proceed to deſcribe the city of New York, formerly denominated by the Dutch, New Amſterdam. This city is moſt commodiouſly ſituated for trade, upon an excellent harbour, in an iſland called Manahatton, about fourteen miles long, though not above one or two broad. This iſland lies juſt in the mouth of the river Hudſon, which diſcharges itſelf here after a long courſe, and is one of the nobleſt rivers in America. It is navigable upwards of two hundred miles, and the tide flows one hundred and fifty. The city of New York, many years ſince, contained upwards of two thouſand houſes, and above eighteen or twenty thouſand inhabitants, the deſcendants of Dutch and Engliſh. It is well and commodiouſly built, extending more than a mile in length, and above half in breadth, and has a very good aſpect from the ſea; but it

t is by no means properly fortified, at leaſt was not till made ſo by the Britiſh forces during the late fatal conteſt. The houſes are built of brick, in the Dutch taſte; the ſtreets are not regular, but are clean and well paved.

About one hundred and fifty miles from New York, upon the river Hudſon, is Albany, a town of not ſo much note for its number of houſes or inhabitants, as for the great trade which is carried on with the Indians. This trade carries off a great quantity of coarſe woollen goods, ſuch as ſtruids and duffils, and alſo guns, hatchets, knives, hoes, kettles, powder, and ſhot, beſides ſhirts and cloaths, ready made, and ſeveral other articles. Here it was, that the treaties and other tranſactions between us and the Iroquois Indians were negotiated. This nation, or rather combination of five nations, united by an ancient and inviolable league among themſelves, was the oldeſt, the moſt ſteady, and the moſt effectual ally we found among the Indians. This people, by their unanimity, firmneſs, military ſkill and policy, have raiſed themſelves to be the greateſt and moſt formidable Indian power in all America. They have reduced a vaſt number of nations, and brought under their power a territory twice as large as the kingdom of France; but they have not encreaſed

their

their ſubjects in proportion. As their manner of making war is implacable and barbarous, they reign the lords of a prodigious deſart, inhabited only by a few ſcattered and inſignificant tribes, whom they have permitted to live out of contempt of their power, and who are all in the loweſt ſtate of ſubjection. Yet this once mighty and victorious nation, though it has always uſed the policy of incorporating with itſelf in a great many of the priſoners they make in war, is in a very declining condition.

More than half of the inhabitants of New York are either Dutch or of Dutch extraction, and almoſt all traders; conſequently they are habitually frugal, induſtrious and parſimonious. Being, however, of different nations, different languages, and different religions, it is almoſt impoſſible to give them any preciſe and determinate character. The women are handſome and agreeable, though rather more reſerved than the Philadelphian ladies; and their amuſements are much the ſame as thoſe in the neighbouring provinces of Pennſylvania, of which we ſhall ſpeak hereafter. There are ſeveral houſes pleaſantly ſituated on the Eaſt river, near New York, where it is common to have turtle feaſts, which happen once or twice in a week. Thirty or forty gentlemen and ladies meet

nd dine together, drink tea in the afternoon, ſh and amuſe themſelves till the evening, nd then return home in Italian chaiſes, gentleman and a lady in each chaiſe. In he way is a bridge, diſtant about three miles rom New York, which they always paſs o- er as they return, and is called the Kiſſing- Bridge, where it is part of the etiquette, for he gentleman to ſalute the lady who has put erſelf under his protection.

Long Iſland is the richeſt ſpot, in the opi- ion of the New Yorkers, of all America, nd where they generally have their villas or ountry houſes. It is undeniably beautiful, nd ſome parts of it are remarkably fertile; ut, perhaps, not equal to the Jerſeys. The ength of it is ſomething more than an hun- lred miles, and the breadth twenty-five. A- out fifteen or ſixteen miles from the weſt nd of it, a large plain opens between twen- y and thirty miles long, and four or five road. Not a tree is growing upon it, and t is aſſerted that there never were any. trangers are always carried to ſee this place s a great curioſity, and the only one of the ind in North America.

6. NEW JERSEY.

THAT part of Nova Belgia, which lay along the ocean, between that and the river Delaware, from the ſouthern port of New York quite down to Maryland, was granted to Sir George Carteret and others, and called New Jerſey.

This province is bounded on the eaſt by New York; on the weſt by the river Delaware, which divides it from Pennſylvania, on the north by unknown lands; and on the ſouth by the ocean, which waſhes its coaſts through an extent of an hundred and twenty miles.

This country, before the revolution, contained only fifteen thouſand inhabitants, the deſcendants of Swedes and Dutch, who were joined by ſome quakers, and ſome church of Englandmen, but a greater number of preſbyterians. As the tyranny of government had ſtopped the progreſs and occaſioned the indigence of this ſmall colony, it might have been expected, that its æra of redreſs of grievances would have been the æra of its proſperity; but it proved otherwiſe. Almoſt all the Europeans, who went to the New World, in ſearch either of wealth or an aſylum preferred the milder climates, and more fruitful

uitful ſoil of Carolina and Pennſylvania; o that New Jerſey was ſuffered to remain in s primitive languor. Even at the beginning f the late troubles, it did not contain above fty thouſand white men, and twenty thouand blacks. Perth Amboy, the capital of his province, though favoured with an excelnt harbour, does not conſiſt of more than hree hundred houſes.

The original poverty of this province roved the ruin of its trade. Being unable o open a direct communication with the iſtant and foreign markets, it began with lling its productions at Philadelphia and New York, to which it found a ready conveyance by water-carriage, and where it received in exchange the manufactures of the nother country. This practice has been ontinued ever ſince; for where the correſondences are fixed, the method of dealing ſtabliſhed, credit given, and a ready market or needy dealers, it is not eaſy to draw ſuch rade out of its old channel. There is of ourſe very little ſpecie in New Jerſey, which reduced, like moſt of the American proinces, to make uſe of paper currency; and s its bills were current both in Pennſylvania nd in New York, which did not take any f each others bills, they bore and advanced remium above the bills of thoſe two pro-

vinces, by being made uſe of in all payments between them.

It is from the culture of its immenſe tract of improveable land, and from the uſe of its own ports, that New Jerſey muſt expect to draw its vigour and proſperity; for as long as it wants immediate agents, it muſt remain in the ſtate of languor into which it is plunged. This the people are thoroughly ſenſible of, and all their efforts have, for ſome time, been directed to enable it to act for itſelf. If there be ſome feeble ſtates, which draw ſubſiſtence and ſupport from the vicinity of others more rich and powerful than themſelves, there are a much greater number, whom ſuch a neighbourhood entirely cruſhes and deſtroys. Perhaps the latter has been, in ſome degree, the fate of New Jerſey, by lying too cloſe to Pennſylvania, which has ſometimes concealed it with its ſhadow, and ſometimes eclipſed it with its ſplendour.

The ſoil, climate, and produce of this province, are nearly the ſame as thoſe of New York, already deſcribed; we ſhall therefore conclude this account of New Jerſey, with juſt mentioning the falls of Paſaic, which are about twenty-three miles from Amboy, from which place to the falls is a very agreeable tour. After riding about ſix miles, you come

ome to a town called Newark, built in an regular and ſcattered manner, after the faſhion of ſome of our villages in England, being nearly two miles in length. Immediately on leaving this place, you come upon the banks of Paſaic river, along which you travel about eighteen miles to the falls, through a fertile country, covered with fine fields and gentlemen's ſeats. Theſe falls are very extraordinary, and perhaps different from any thing of the kind to be met with in America. The river is about forty yards broad, and runs with a very ſwift current, till coming to a deep chaſm or cleft which croſſes the channel, it falls above ſeventy feet perpendicular, in one entire ſheet. One end of the clift is cloſed up, and the water rushes out at the other, with incredible rapidity, and is received into a large baſon. From hence it takes a winding courſe through the rocks, and ſpreads again into a very conſiderable channel. The clift is from four to twelve feet broad. When the ſun ſhines, the ſpray forms two beautiful rainbows, and contributes to afford as fine a ſcene as imagination can conceive. This extraordinary phænomenon is ſuppoſed to have been produced by an earthquake, or perhaps exiſted ever ſince the univerſal ſhock all nature felt at the deluge. About thirty yards above the great falls

is another in a very beautiful ſtyle, gliding over ſome ledges of rocks, each two or three feet perpendicular, which very much heighten the grandeur of the ſcene.

7. PENNSYLVANIA. 8. DELAWARE.

BEFORE we proceed to the deſcription of Pennſylvania, we ſhall give ſome account of Mr. William Penn, and the principles upon which he ſettled this colony.

Mr. William Penn, in his capacity of a divine and moral writer, was certainly not one of the firſt rank, and his works are of no great eſtimation, except among his own people; but, in his capacity of a legiſlator, and founder of ſo flouriſhing a commonwealth, he deſerves great honour among all mankind; a commonwealth, which, in leſs than a century, from a beginning of a few hundreds of refugees and indigent men, has grown to be a numerous and flouriſhing people; a people who, from a perfect wilderneſs, have brought their territory to a ſtate of great cultivation, and filled it with wealthy and populous towns; and who, in the midſt of a fierce and lawleſs race of men, have preſerved themſelves, with unarmed hands and paſſive principles, by the rules

ples of moderation and juſtice, better than ny other people have done by policy and rms.

Mr. Penn, when, for his father's ſervices, nd by his own intereſt at court, he obtained he inheritance of this country and its govern- nent, ſaw that he could make the grant of alue to him only by rendering the country s agreeable to all people, as eaſe and good overnment could make it. With this view e began by purchaſing the ſoil, at a very ow rate indeed, from the original poſſeſſors, o whom it was of very little uſe. By this heap act of juſtice at the beginning, he made ll his dealings for the future more eaſy, by repoſſeſſing the Indians with a favourable o- inion of him and his deſigns.

The other part of his plan, which was, to people this country after he had ſecured the poſſeſſion of it, he ſaw much facilitated by the uneaſineſs of his brethren the quakers in England, who, refuſing to pay tithes and other church dues, ſuffered a great deal from the ſpiritual courts. Their high opinion of and regard for the man, who was an honour to their new church, made them the more ready to follow him over the vaſt ocean into an untried climate and country; nor was he himſelf wanting in any thing that could encourage them. He expended vaſt ſums in

tranſ-

transporting them, and in finding them in all neceſſaries; and, not aiming at a certain profit, he diſpoſed of his land at a very light purchaſe. What crowned all, was that noble charter of privileges, by which he made them as free as any people in the world, and which afterwards drew ſuch great numbers, of ſo many different perſuaſions, and ſuch various countries to put themſelves under the protection of his laws.

He made the moſt perfect freedom, both religious and civil, the baſis of this eſtabliſhment; and this did more towards the ſettling of the province in a ſtrong and permanent manner, than the wiſeſt regulations could have done upon any other plan. All perſons who profeſs to believe one God, are freely tolerated; thoſe who believe on Jeſus Chriſt, of whatever denomination, are not excluded from employments and poſts.

This great man lived to ſee an extenſive country called after his own name; he lived to ſee it peopled by his own wiſdom, the people free and flouriſhing, and the moſt flouriſhing people in it of his own perſuaſion; he lived to lay the foundation of a ſplendid and wealthy city; he lived to ſee it promiſe every thing from the ſituation which he himſelf had choſen, and the encouragement which he himſelf had given it; he lived to ſee all this, but he

died in—the Fleet priſon! It is but juſt, at in ſuch a reſpect, we ſhould allot a little om, to do honour to thoſe great men, whoſe rtues and generoſity have contributed to e peopling of the earth and to the freedom d happineſs of Mankind; who have prefer- d the intereſt of a remote poſterity, and mes unknown, to their own fortunes, and the quiet and ſecurity of their own lives. reat Britain once did, as all America will, ap great benefit from his labours and his ffes; and his poſterity have a vaſt eſtate out the quit-rents of that province, whoſe tabliſhment was the ruin of their predeceſ- r's moderate fortune.

Having paid this ſhort but juſt tribute to erit, we ſhall proceed to deſcribe Pennſylva- ia, which is bounded on the north by the ountry of the Iroquois, or Five Nations; on e eaſt by Delaware river, which divides it om Jerſey; and on the ſouth and weſt by aryland, being about three hundred miles length, and two hundred and forty in eadth. Within theſe limits are included e ſouthern counties of Newcaſtle, Kent, nd Suſſex, which always formed, in ſome eaſure, a diſtinct government, having an ſſembly of their own, though the ſame go- ernor as the province of Pennſylvania. The ongreſs have now erected theſe three coun-

ties

ties into one of the Thirteen United Provinces and named it DELAWARE, which being lately a member of the province of Pennſylvania, the air, ſoil, and produce, come under the general deſcription here given of that province.

Pennſylvania and Delaware are inhabited by upwards of two hundred and fifty thouſand people, half of whom are Germans, Swedes or Dutch. Here you ſee the quakers, churchmen, calviniſts, lutherans, catholics, methodiſts, moravians, independents, anabaptiſts, and dumplers, a ſort of German ſect that live in ſomething like a religious ſociety, wear long beards, and a habit reſembling that of friars. In ſhort, the diverſity of people, religions, nations, and languages here, is prodigious, and the harmony in which they live together no leſs edifying; for, though every man, who wiſhes well to religion, is ſorry to ſee the diverſity that prevails, and would by all humane and honeſt means wiſh to prevent it, yet, when once the evil has happened, when there is no longer an union of ſentiments, it is glorious to preſerve at leaſt an union of affections. It is a pleaſing proſpect, to ſee men give and take an equal liberty; to ſee them live, if not as belonging to the ſame church, yet to the ſame Chriſtian religion;

and

nd if not to the ſame religion, yet to the me fraternity of mankind.

In the province of Pennſylvania there are many good towns, even exceeding the capitals of ſome other provinces, that nothing ould excuſe our paſſing them by, had not hiladelphia drawn our attention ſolely to itelf. This city ſtands upon a tongue of land mmediately at the confluence of two fine riers, the Delaware and the Schulkil. It is iſpoſed in the form of an oblong, deſigned o extend two miles from river to river; but he buildings do not extend above a mile and half on the weſt ſide of the Delaware in ength, and not more than half a mile where he town is broadeſt. The longeſt ſtretch, hen the original plan can be fully executed, is to compoſe eight parallel ſtreets, all of wo miles in length; theſe are to be interſected by ſixteen others, each a mile in length; road, ſpacious, and even, with proper ſpaces eft for the public buildings, churches, and market-places. In the center is a ſquare of en acres, round which moſt of the public buildings are diſpoſed. The two principal ſtreets of the city are each one hundred feet wide, and moſt of the houſes have a ſmall garden and orchard. From the rivers are cut ſeveral canals, equally agreeable and beneficial.

The

The quays are ſpacious and fine; the prin
cipal quay is two hundred feet wide, and t
this a veſſel of five hundred tons may lay he
broadſide. The warehouſes are large, nu
merous, and commodious, and the docks fo
ſhipping every way well adapted to their pur
poſes. A great number of veſſels have bee
built here, twenty having been upon th
ſtocks at a time. There are in this city
great number of very wealthy merchants
which is by no means ſurpriſing, when w
conſider the great trade it carried on, ever
before the grand day of its independence
with the Engliſh, Spaniſh, and Dutch colo
nies in America; with the Azores, the Cana
ries, and the Madeira iſlands; with Great
Britain and Ireland; With Spain, Portugal
and Holland, and the great profits that ar
made in many branches of their commerce.

The city of Philadelphia, though the ori
ginal plan is at preſent far from being com
pleted, yet, ſo far as it is built, is carried on
conformably to it; and there is no doubt,
from the complexion of the preſent times,
but it will every day increaſe in the number
and beauty of its buildings. As for the pro
vince, of which this city is the capital, there
is no part of North America in a more grow
ing condition. In ſome years, more people
have tranſported themſelves into Pennſylva
ni

a, than into all the other ſettlements toge-
er.

The people in this province are in general
ell made, and the women, who are hand-
ome and polite, are naturally ſprightly and
ond of pleaſure, and, upon the whole, are
uch more agreeable and accompliſhed than
e men. Since their intercourſe with the
ngliſh officers, they are greatly improved,
nd many of them would not make a bad
gure even in the firſt aſſemblies in Europe.
s they ſooner become mothers than in Eu-
ope, they ſooner ceaſe breeding. If the heat
f the climate ſeem, on one hand, to haſten
he operations of nature, its inconſtancy
eakens them on the other; for there is no
lace where the temperature of the ſky is more
ncertain, ſeveral changes happening often in
he ſame day. Theſe changes, however,
ave no bad influence on the fruits of the
arth, of which there is a conſtant plenty,
nd an univerſal appearance of eaſe. Thoſe
amilies, whoſe circumſtances are in any de-
ree affluent, have all bread, meat, cyder,
eer, and rum, and numbers are able to
o drink conſtantly, though commonly in
oderation, French and Spaniſh wines.

Happily, the pleaſing proſpect of this abun-
ance is never diſturbed by the melancholy
ppearance of poverty; for there are no poor
n Pennſylvania. All thoſe, whoſe birth of

hard fortune has left them deſtitute of re-
ſources, are provided for out of the public
treaſury, and their ſpirit of benevolence ex-
tends to the moſt engaging hoſpitality.
Strangers, who come recommended to them,
are moſt friendly received, and are not ſuf-
fered to depart but with regret.

The virtuous poſſeſſors, and peaceful te-
nants of theſe provinces, which uſually ren-
der them twenty or thirty fold for whatever
they lay upon them, are not reſtrained by the
fear of want from the propagation of their
ſpecies. There is hardly an unmarried perſon
to be met with in Pennſylvania and Delaware
after the years that nature has preſcribed for
the union of the ſexes; and the matrimonial
ſtate is ſo much the more happy, and conſe-
quently the more reverenced, as the freedom
and ſanctity of marriage depends entirely on
the will of the parties. They chooſe the law-
yer and the prieſt, rather as witneſſes than
as the means of cementing their engagements.
When they meet with oppoſition from their
relations, the two lovers go off on horſeback
together. The man rides behind his miſtreſs,
and in this ſituation preſent themſelves before
the magiſtrate, where the girl declares ſhe
has run away with her ſweetheart, and that
they are come to be married. Such a ſolemn
avowal cannot be rejected, nor has any per-
ſon

on a right to give them any moleſtation. In all other caſes, the parental authority is very extenſive.

The amuſements of the Pennſylvanians, during the winter, are chiefly dancing; and, in the ſummer, they form parties of pleaſure on the Schuilkil, and in the country. At Philadelphia is a ſociety of ladies and gentlemen, called the Fiſhing Company, who meet once a fortnight on the Schuilkil. They have a very pleaſant room erected, in a romantic ſituation, upon the banks of that river, where they generally dine and drink tea. There are ſeveral pretty walks about it, and ſome wild and rugged rocks, which, together with the water, and fine groves that adorn the banks, form a moſt beautiful and picturesque ſcene. Here are boats, and fiſhing-tackle of all ſorts, and the company divert themſelves with walking, fiſhing, going on the water, dancing, ſinging, converſing and what elſe they pleaſe. The ladies wear an uniform, and appear with great eaſe and advantage from the neatneſs and ſimplicity of it. The firſt and moſt diſtinguiſhed people of the province are of this ſociety, and it is very advantageous to a ſtranger to be introduced to it, as he thereby gets acquainted with the beſt and moſt reſpectible company in Philadelphia. In the winter, when there is no

ſnow upon the ground, it is uſual to make what they call ſleighing parties, or to go upon it in ſledges.

9. MARYLAND.

THIS province is bounded on the north by Pennſylvania; on the eaſt, by the province of Delaware, and the Atlantic ocean; on the ſouth, by Virginia; and on the weſt by the Apalachian mountains; being about one hundred and forty miles in length, and about one hundred and thirty-five in breadth.

In the reign of Charles the Firſt, the Lord Baltimore applied for a patent for a part of Virginia, and, in 1632, obtained a grant of a tract of land upon Cheſapeak-bay, which, in honour of the queen, he called MARYLAND. This province, therefore, being originally part of Virginia, we ſhall defer the account of the air, ſoil, and produce of this colony, till we come to treat of Virginia, they being in both nearly the ſame; and, at preſent, we ſhall confine ourſelves principally to the firſt ſettlement of Maryland.

Lord Baltimore was a Roman catholic, and was induced to attempt this ſettlement in America, in hopes of enjoying liberty of conſcience

conſcience for himſelf, and for ſuch of his friends, to whom the ſeverity of the laws might looſen their ties to their country, and make them prefer an eaſy baniſhment with freedom, to the conveniences of England embittered as they were by the ſharpneſs of the laws, and the popular odium which hung over them. The court at that time was certainly very little inclined to treat the Roman catholics in a harſh manner, neither had they in reality the leaſt appearance to do ſo; but the laws themſelves were of a rigorous conſtitution, and however the court might be inclined to relax them, they could not in policy do it but with great reſerve. The puritan party perpetually accuſed the court, and indeed the epiſcopal church, of a deſire of returning to popery; and this accuſation was ſo popular, that it was not in the power of the court to ſhew the papiſts that indulgence they deſired.

The ſettlement of the colony coſt Lord Baltimore a large ſum. It was made, under his auſpices, by his brother, and about two hundred perſons, Roman catholics, and moſt of them of good families. This ſettlement, at the beginning, did not meet with the ſame difficulties, which embarraſſed and retarded moſt of the others we had made. The people were generally of the better ſort, a proper ſubordination was obſerved among

them, and the Indians gave and took so little offence, that they ceded one half of their principal town, and some time after the whole of it to these strangers.

The Indian women taught ours how to make bread of their corn, and the men went out to fish and hunt with the English; they assisted them in the chace, and sold them the game they took themselves for a trifling consideration; so that the new settlers had a sort of town ready built, ground ready cleared for their subsistence, and no enemy to harrass them. They lived thus, without much trouble or fear, until some ill-disposed persons in Virginia insinuated to the Indians, that the Baltimore colony had designs upon them; that they were Spaniards, and not Englishmen, and such other tales as they judged proper to sow the seeds of suspicion and enmity in the minds of these people. Upon the first appearance of the malice of the Virginians having taken effect, the new planters were not wanting to take care of themselves. They built a good fort with all expedition, and took every other necessary measure for their defence; but they still continued to treat the Indians with so much kindness, that partly by these means, and partly by the awe of their arms, the evil designs of their enemies were defeated.

As

As the colony met with ſo few obſtructions, and as the Roman catholics in England were yet more ſeverely treated, in proportion as the court party declined, numbers conſtantly arrived to repleniſh the ſettlement, which the lord proprietor omitted no care, and withheld no expence, to ſupport and encourage, until the uſurpation overturned the government at home, and deprived him of his rights abroad.

Maryland remained under the governors appointed by the parliament and by Cromwell, until the Reſtoration, when Lord Baltimore was re-inſtated in his former poſſeſſions, which he cultivated with his former wiſdom, care, and moderation. No people could live in greater eaſe and ſecurity; and his Lordſhip, willing that as many as poſſible ſhould enjoy the benefits of his mild and equitable adminiſtration, gave his conſent to an act of aſſembly, which he had before promoted in his province, for allowing a free and unlimited toleration for all who profeſſed the Chriſtian religion, of whatever denomination.

This liberty, which was never in the leaſt violated, encouraged a great number, not only of the church of England, but of preſbyterians, quakers, and all kind of diſſenters, to ſettle in Maryland, which before that was almoſt wholly in the hands of the Roman catholics.

catholics. This lord, though guilty of no mal adminiſtration in his government, though a zealous Roman catholic, and firmly attached to the cauſe of King James the Second, could not prevent his character being queſtioned in that arbitrary reign, and a ſuit from being commenced, to deprive him of the property and juriſdiction of a province granted by the royal favour, and peopled at ſuch a vaſt expence of his own. It was the error of that weak and unfortuate reign, neither to know its friends nor its enemies; but, by a blind precipitate conduct, to hurry on every thing of whatever conſequence, with almoſt equal heat, and to imagine, that the ſound of the royal authority was ſufficient to juſtify every ſort of conduct to every ſort of people.

Upon the Revolution, Lord Baltimore had no reaſon to expect any favour, yet he met with more than King James had intended him; he was indeed deprived of his juriſdiction, but he was left the profits of his province, which were by no means inconſiderable; and when his deſcendants had conformed to the church of England, they were reſtored to all their rights as fully as the legiſlature thought fit that any proprietor ſhould enjoy them.

When, upon the Revolution, power changed hands in that province, the new men made but an indifferent requital for the

liberties

liberties and indulgences they had enjoyed under the old adminiſtration. They not only deprived the Roman catholics of all ſhare in the government, but of all the rights of freemen; they even adopted the whole body of the penal laws of England againſt them, and were meditating new laws in the ſame ſpirit; and would undoubtedly have gone to the greateſt lengths in this reſpect; if the moderation and good ſenſe of the government in England had not ſet ſome bounds to their bigotry; thinking very prudently, that it was highly unjuſt, and equally impolitic, to allow an aſylum abroad to any religious perſuaſions, which they judged it improper to tolerate at home, and then to deprive them of its protection; recollecting at the ſame time, in the various changes which our religion and government had undergone, which had in their times rendered every ſort of party and religion obnoxious to the reigning powers, that this American aſylum, which had been admitted in the hotteſt times of perſecution at home, had proved of infinite ſervice, not only to the peace of England, but to the proſperity of its commerce, and the eſtabliſhment of its power.

There are a ſort of men, who will not ſee ſo plain a truth; and theſe are the people who would appear to contend moſt warmly for

for liberty; but it is only a party liberty fo which they contend; a liberty which the ſtretch out one way only to narrow it in a nother; they are not aſhamed of uſing th very ſame pretences for perſecuting others which their enemies uſe for perſecuting them

Annapolis is the capital of this province and the ſeat of government. It is a ſmall nea town, ſituated on a peninſula on Severn ri ver, and from this town is the fineſt water proſpect imaginable. The bay is twelve miles o ver, and beyond it is the eaſtern ſhore, ſ that the ſcene is diverſified with fields, wood and water. The town is not laid out regu larly, but is tolerably well built, and has ſe veral good brick houſes in it; but none o the ſtreets are paved, and the few publi buildings here are not worth mentioning.

10. VIRGINIA.

THIS province is bounded on the north eaſt by the river Patowmac, which divides i from Maryland; on the eaſt, by the Atlanti ocean; on the ſouth, by Carolina; and o the weſt by the Miſſiſipi; being about ſeve hundred and fifty miles in length, and tw hundred and forty in breadth.

Virginia has generally been conſidered a the moſt ancient of our late colonies; though ſtrictl

rictly ſpeaking, the firſt attempt to ſettle a olony was firſt made in that part of North arolina, which immediately borders upon it. ir Walter Raleigh was the moſt extraordina- y genius of his own, or perhaps any other ime; a penetrating ſtateſman, an accom- liſhed courtier, a deep ſcholar, a fine writer, great ſoldier, and one of the ableſt ſeamen n the world. His vaſt genius, that pierced o far, and ran through ſo many things, was f a fiery eccentric kind, which led him into aring expeditions, and uncommon projects; hich, not being underſtood by a weak and imid prince, and envied and hated by the ivals he had in ſo many ways of life, ruined im at laſt.

He was the firſt man in England, who had right conception of the advantages of ſettle- ments abroad; he was then the only perſon, who had a thorough inſight into trade, and who ſaw clearly the proper methods of pro- moting it. But he had too much buſineſs u- pon his hands at court, and found too few to ſecond him in his deſigns, to enable him to ſupport the eſtabliſhment with the ſpirit in which he began it.

If ever any deſign had an unpromiſing begin- ning, and ſeemed to forbid any attempts for carrying it on, it was that of the firſt ſettle- ment of Virginia. Nearly half of the firſt

colony

colony was deſtroyed by the ſavages; and the reſt, conſumed and worn down by fatigue and famine, deſerted the country, and returned home in deſpair. The ſecond colony was cut off to a man, in a manner unknown; but they were ſuppoſed to be deſtroyed by the Indians. The third had the ſame diſmal fate and the fourth quarrelling among themſelves, neglecting their agriculture to hunt for gold, and provoking the Indians by their inſolent and unguarded behaviour, loſt ſeveral of their people, and were returning, the poor remains of them, in a famiſhing and deſperate condition, to England, when juſt in the mouth of Cheſapeak bay they met Lord Delaware, with a ſquadron loaded with proviſions, and every thing neceſſary for their relief and defence.

This nobleman perſuaded them to return and laboured with as much zeal and aſſiduity to cheriſh and ſupport the froward infancy of this unpromiſing colony, as ſome in England have ſince uſed to ſeparate it from the mother country. His lordſhip, regardleſs of his life, and inattentive to his own fortune entered upon this long anddangerous voyage, and accepted this dreary province, which had nothing of a government but its anxieties and its cares, merely for the ſervice of his country. He had no other reward than that

at inward and retired ſatisfaction, which a ood mind feels in indulging its own pro- nſity to virtue, and the juſt honours, which e lateſt poſterity will take a pleaſure in ſtowing upon thoſe, who prefer the gene- l intereſt of their country to their own ivate views.

Under the protection of this noble man d generous patron, Lord Delaware, the lony of Virginia was ſo faſt rooted, that it as enabled to ſtand two terrible ſtorms, two aſſacres made by the Indians, in which the hole colony was nearly cut off; but he uad means to ſubdue that people, ſo as to ut it utterly out of their power, for many ars afterwards, to give them the leaſt ars.

After the Reſtoration, there is nothing ve- intereſting in their hiſtory, except that on after, a ſort of rebellion aroſe in the rovince, from miſmanagement in the go- rnment, from the decay of their trade, and om exorbitant grants inconſiderately made, hich included the ſettled property of many ople. Theſe grievances raiſed a general lcontent among the planters, which was fo- ented and brought to blaze out in an actu- war, by a young gentleman, whoſe name as Bacon. He was an agreeable man, of a aceful preſence, and a winning carriage.

He had been bred to the law, had a live and fluent expreſſion, fit to ſet off a popu lar cauſe, and to influence men who were ready to hear whatever could be ſaid to co lour, in a proper manner, what was already ſtrongly drawn by their own feelings.

This young man, by a ſpecious or real, bu ill judged regard for the public-good, took up arms, without any commiſſion, to act a gainſt the Indians, who were than ravagin the frontiers; and, finding himſelf in a con dition, not only to act againſt the enemy, bu to give law to the governor, he inſiſted on redreſs of grievances. The governor on hi ſide, fled over the river Potowmac, raiſed ſmall body of troops, and declared Bacon traitor. Things were now haſtened to th laſt extremities, when the natural death o this young man reſtored the province to tran quility, which was fully completed by th arrival of a regiment from England, whic remained a long time in this province befor they were recalled.

We ſhall now proceed to deſcribe the cli mate, ſoil, produce, trade and genius of th inhabitants of Virginia, which as we obſerve in the preceding article, are the ſame as thoſ of Maryland. What we ſhall therefore now ſay of Virginia, muſt be underſtood of Mary land alſo.

Thoug

Though the ſummers in Virginia are extremely hot, the other ſeaſons make ample amends for this inconvenience; for the autumns and ſprings are delightful, and the winters ſo mild and ſerene, (though there are now and then exceſſive cold days) as ſcarcely to require a fire. The only complaint that a perſon can reaſonably make is, of the ſudden changes to which the weather is liable; for this being entirely regulated by the winds is exceedingly variable. Southerly winds are productive of heat, northerly of cold, and eaſterly of rains; from hence it is no uncommon thing, after a warm day, to have ſuch ſevere cold, as to freeze over a river a mile broad in one night's time. In ſummer, there are frequent and violent guſts of wind, with thunder and lightning; but as the country is but thinly inhabited, and moſt of the gentry have electrical rods to their houſes, theſe are not attended with many fatal accidents.

The ſoil of Virginia is in general good. There are indeed barren places where the land produces nothing but pine-trees; but, taking the whole tract together it is certainly fertile. The low grounds upon the rivers and creeks are exceedingly rich, being loam intermingled with ſand; and the higher you go up in the country, towards the moun-

tains, the value of the land encreaſes, it growing ſtronger, and of a deeper clay.

Virginia in its natural ſtate, produces great quantities of fruits, as well as medicinal plants, with trees and flowers of infinitely various kinds. Tobacco and Indian corn are the original produce of the country; grapes, ſtrawberries, hiccory nuts, mulberries, cheſnuts, and ſeveral other fruits, grow wild and ſpontaneouſly. Beſides trees and flowers of an ordinary nature, the woods produce myrtles, cedars, cypreſſes, firs of different ſorts, and no leſs than ſeven or eight different kinds of oak; they are likewiſe adorned and beautified with red flowering maples, ſaſſafras trees, red buds, ſcarlet flowering cheſnuts, flowering poplars, yellow jaſmines and innumerable other ſorts; ſo that we may reaſonably aſſert, that no country ever appeared with greater elegance or beauty.

Beſides the numberleſs creeks and rivulets with which Virginia abounds, it is watered by four large rivers of ſuch ſafe navigation, and ſuch noble and majeſtic appearance, as not to be exceeded by any part of the known world. James river is ſeven miles broad at the mouth, navigable above an hundred and fifty miles for veſſels of large burden. Here the falls begin, which are about ſix or ſeven miles in length. They conſiſt of innumerable

le breaks of water, owing to the obſtruction f the current by an infinite number of rocks, hich are ſcattered over the bed of the river, nd form a moſt pictureſque and beautiful aſcade. The Potowmac is one of the fineſt ivers in North America; it is ten miles road at the mouth, navigable above two undred miles, to Alexandria, for men of ar. Theſe and the other rivers diſcharge emſelves into Cheſapeak Bay, one of the fi-eſt in the world, which is from ten or wenty miles broad, navigable near an hundred eagues for veſſels of almoſt any burden, and ceives into its boſom at leaſt twenty great ivers. All theſe are ſtored with incredible uantities of fiſh.

In the mountains are very rich veins of re, and the foreſts abound with plenty of ame of various kinds, ſuch as hares, phea-nts, woodcocks, and partridges, which are in he greateſt abundance. In the marſhes are ound ſnipes, and ducks of various kinds, in rodigious numbers. The American ſhell-rake and blue-wing exceed all the duck kind whatever. In the woods are the greateſt va-iety of birds, no leſs remarkable for the me-ody of their voices than for the beauty of heir plumage.

The climate and external appearance of Virginia conſpire to make its inhabitants in-

dolent, eaſy, and good-natured, extremely fond of ſociety, and much given to convivial pleaſures. In conſequence of this they ſeldom ſhow any ſpirit of enterpriſe, or willingly expoſe themſelves to fatigue. Their authority over their ſlaves renders them vain and imperious, and entire ſtrangers to that elegance of ſentiment, which is ſo peculiarly characteriſtic of refined and poliſhed nations. Their ignorance of mankind and of learning expoſes them to many errors and prejudices, eſpecially in regard to Indians and negroes, whom they ſcarcely conſider as of the human ſpecies; ſo that it is almoſt impoſſible, in caſes of violence, or even murder, committed upon theſe unhappy people by any of the planters, to have the delinquents brought to juſtice, as either the grand jury will refuſe to find the bill, or the petit jury will acquit the criminal.

The public or political character of the Virginians correſponds with their private one: they are haughty and jealous of their liberties, impatient of reſtraint, and can ſcarcely bear the thought of being controuled by any ſuperior power. Many of them, long before the late conteſt, which for ever ſeparated the American colonies from Britain, conſidered their provinces as independent ſtates, unconnected with the mother country, otherwiſe than

than by having the ſame common king, and being bound to her with natural affection.

The women are rather handſome, though not to be compared with our fair country women in England. They have but few advantages and conſequently are ſeldom accompliſhed. This makes them reſerved and unequal to any refined or intereſted converſation. They are immoderately fond of dancing, and indeed it is almoſt the only amuſement they partake of; but even in this they diſcover great want of taſte and elegance, and ſeldom appear with that gracefulneſs and eaſe, which theſe movements are ſo calculated to diſplay. Towards the cloſe of an evening, when the company are pretty well tired with country dances, it is uſual to dance jigs, which is ſaid to be a practice originally borrowed from the negroes. Theſe dances are without any method or regularity: a gentleman and lady ſtand up, and dance about the room, one of them retiring, the other purſuing, then perhaps meeting, in an irregular fantaſtical manner. After ſome time, another lady gets up, and then the firſt lady muſt ſit down, ſhe being, as they term it, cut out. The ſecond lady acts the ſame part which the firſt did, till ſomebody cuts her out; and the gentlemen perform in the ſame manner. The Virginian ladies, excepting

theſe

theſe amuſements, chiefly ſpend their time in ſewing, and taking care of their families; for they ſeldom read, or endeavour to improve their minds. However, they are in general good houſewives; and though they have not perhaps, ſo much tenderneſs and ſenſibility as the Engliſh ladies, yet they make as good wives, and as good mothers, as any in the world.

Williamſburg, which is the capital of Virginia, is ſituated between two creeks, one falling into James, the other into York river, and is built nearly due eaſt and weſt. The diſtance of each landing-place is ſomething more than a mile from the town, which, with the diſadvantage of not being able to bring up large veſſels, is the reaſon of its not having encreaſed ſo faſt as might have been expected. It is regularly laid out in paralle ſtreets, interſected by others at right angles; it has a handſome ſquare in the center, thro' which runs the principal ſtreet, one of the moſt ſpacious in North America, three quarters of a mile in length, and above an hundred feet wide. At the ends of this ſtreet are two public buildings, the College and the Capitol; and though the houſes are of wood, covered with ſhingles, and indifferently built, yet the whole makes a handſome appearance. The governor's palace is tolerably good, and

is

one of the beſt upon the continent; but he church, the priſon, and the other buildngs, are all of them extremely indifferent. The ſituation of Williamſburgh, however, as one advantage, which few or no places n theſe lower parts have, that of having een free from moſquitoes. Upon the whole, Williamſburgh is by no means a diſagreeable eſidence.

1. and 12. NORTH and SOUTH CAROLINA. 13. GEORGIA.

THESE three provinces are bounded on e North by Virginia; on the eaſt, by the tlantic ocean; on the South, by the river . John, which ſeparate Georgia from Floda; and on the weſt, by the Miſſiſipi; beg about ſeven hundred miles in length, and out three hundred and eighty in breadth.

Theſe provinces were, on their firſt ſettlent, in the hands, and under the direction lord proprietors; but their inteſtine diſactions and Indian wars kept the colony ſo w, that, in order to prevent the laſt ruious conſequences of theſe diviſions, an act the Britiſh parliament, in 1728, put them der the immediate care and inſpection of the

the crown. For the more commodious administration of affairs, the country was divided into two distinct independent governments, called North Carolina and South Carolina. In the year 1732, the government observing that a great tract of land in South Carolina, upon the borders of the Spanish Florida, lay waste and unsettled, resolved to erect it into a separate province, and to send a colony thither. This was accordingly done, and it received the name of Georgia.

The soil and climate of these countries do not considerably differ from those of Virginia; but, where they differ, it is much to the advantage of Carolina, which, on the whole, may be considered as one of the finest climates in the world. The heat in summer is very little greater than that of Virginia; but the winters are milder and shorter, and the year, in all respects, does not come to the same violent extremities. However, the weather, though in general serene as the air is healthy, yet, like all American weather, makes such quick changes, and those so sharp, as to oblige the inhabitants to rather more caution in their dress and diet, than we are obliged to use in Europe.

Thunder and lightning are frequent, and it is the only one of the colonies upon the continent that is subject to hurricanes; but they

they are very rare, and not near ſo violent as thoſe of the Weſt Indies. Part of the month of March, and all April, May, and the greater part of June, are here expreſſibly temperate and agreeable; but in July, Auguſt, and for almoſt the whole of September, the heat is intenſe. Though the winters are ſharp, eſpecially when the north-weſt wind prevails, yet they are ſeldom ſevere enough to freeze any conſiderable waters, affecting only the mornings and evenings, the froſts having never ſufficient ſtrength to reſiſt the noon-day ſun. Hence may tender plants, which do not ſtand the winter of Virginia, flouriſh in Carolina; for they have oranges in plenty near Charleſtown, and excellent in their kinds, both ſweet and ſour. Olives are rather neglected by the planter, than denied by the climate.

The vegetation of almoſt every plant is here almoſt incredibly quick; for there is ſomething ſo kindly in the air and ſoil, that where the latter has the moſt barren and unprofitable appearance, if neglected for a while, of itſelf ſhoots out an immenſe quantity of thoſe various plants and beautiful flowering ſhrubs and flowers, for which this country is ſo famous, and of which Mr. Cateſby, in his Natural Hiſtory of Carolina, has made ſuch fine drawings. The whole country

country is in a manner one foreſt, where our planters have not cleared it, and the trees are almoſt the ſame in every reſpect with thoſe produced in Virginia.

The air is pure and wholeſome, eſpecially at an hundred miles diſtance from the ſea, where it begins to grow hilly; for Carolina is all an even plain for eighty miles from the ſea: no hill, no rocks, ſcarce even a pebble to be met with. Nothing can be imagined more pleaſing to the eye than the back country, and its fruitfulneſs is almoſt incredible. Wheat grows extremely well there, and yields a prodigious encreaſe. In the other parts of Carolina they raiſe but little, where it is apt to mildew, and ſpend itſelf in ſtraw; and theſe evils the planters take very little care to redreſs, as they turn their whole attention to the culture of rice, which is more profitable, and in which they are unrivalled.

As to the native animals of this country, they are in general the ſame with thoſe of Virginia; but there is a greater number and variety of beautiful fowls. All the animals of Europe are here in plenty, and black cattle are multiplied prodigiouſly. Some years ago, it was a thing extraordinary for a perſon to have above three or four cows, now ſome have a thouſand, and ſome

n North Carolina a great many more; but o have two or three hundred is very com-non. Theſe ramble all day at pleaſure in he foreſts; but their calves being ſeparated nd kept in fenced paſtures, the cows return very evening to them. They are then milked, detained all night, milked in the morning, and then let looſe again. The hogs range in the ſame manner, and return like the cows, by having ſhelter and ſome proviſions for them at the plantation. Theſe re vaſtly numerous, and many quite wild. Many horned cattle, and horſes likewiſe, run wild in their woods, though, at their firſt ſet-lement there was not one of theſe animals in he country.

The trade of Carolina, beſides the lumber, proviſion, and the like, which it yields in common with the reſt of America, has three great ſtaple commodities, indigo, rice, and he produce of the pine, which are turpen-ine, tar, and pitch. South Carolina has in-digo and rice entirely to itſelf; and, taking n North Carolina, this part of America yields more pitch and tar than all the reſt of he provinces.

In theſe provinces are ten navigable rivers of a very long courſe, and innumerable ſmall ones, which fall into them, all abounding in fiſh. About fifty or ſixty miles from the ſea

there are falls in moſt of the great rivers, which, as you approach their ſources, become more numerous. This is the caſe of almoſt all the American rivers. At theſe falls, thoſe who navigate theſe rivers, land their goods, carry them beyond the cataract on horſes or waggons, and then re-ſhip them below or above it.

Edenton was formerly the capital of North Carolina, if a trifling village can deſerve that denomination. Indeed, none of their towns are worth mentioning: the conveniency of inland navigation in all the ſouthern provinces, and the want of handicraftſmen, are great and almoſt inſuperable obſtacles to their having any towns of conſequence. The time, however, is perhaps now at hand, when new laws, new manners, and new cuſtoms, may totally alter the face of theſe provinces.

The only town in either of the Carolinas, which can claim our attention, is Charles-town, which is one of the firſt in North America for ſize, beauty, and traffic. It is happily ſituated at the confluence of two navigable rivers, and its harbour is good in every reſpect, but that of a bar, which hinders veſſels of more than two hundred tons burthen from entering, the town is regularly and ſtrongly fortified both by nature and art;

art; the ſtreets are well cut, the houſes are large and well built, and rents run very high. The church is ſpacious, and executed in a very handſome taſte, exceeding every thing of that kind to be met with in America. Here the ſeveral denominations of diſſenters have their meeting-houſes, and here ſeveral handſome equipages are kept. The planters and merchants are rich and well bred, and the people are ſhowy and expenſive in their dreſs and way of living; ſo that every thing conſpires to make this by much the liveliеſt and politeſt place, as it is one of the richeſt in all America. The beſt harbour in theſe provinces is far to the ſouthward, on the borders of Georgia, called Port Royal. This might give a capacious and ſafe reception to the largeſt fleets of the greateſt bulk and burden; yet the town, which is called Beaufort, built upon an iſland of the ſame name with the harbour, is not as yet conſiderable; but it bids fair in time for becoming the firſt trading town in this part of America.

The trade between Carolina and the Weſt-Indies is the ſame, in all reſpects, with that of the reſt of the colonies. Their trade with the Indians is likewiſe in a very flouriſhing condition, at leaſt was ſo before the breaking out of the late troubles in America, when

they carried Engliſh goods on pack-horſe five or ſix hundred miles into the country weſt of Charleſtown. They export no inconſiderable quantity of beaver, racoon, otter, fox, minx, and wild cat ſkins, and in every ſhip ſend live cattle, beſides what they vend in Virginia. Some attempts have been made, in both North and South Carolina, to raiſe cotton and ſilk; and the failure of their ſucceſs muſt not be attributed to the impractibility of it, but to the want of a vigorous reſolution and ſpirit. What they ſent to England of theſe commodities was of ſo excellent a kind, as to give encouragement to proceed in a buſineſs, which they have not yet taken to heart with all the warmth its importance in trade, and the fitneſs of the climate for theſe valuable articles, moſt certainly deſerve.

As to the province of Georgia, it has towns already known in trade: Savanna is the capital, which ſtands very well for buſineſs about ten miles from the ſea, upon a noble river of the ſame name, which is navigable two hundred miles further for large boats to the ſecond town, called Auguſtus, which ſtands upon a ſpot of ground of the greateſt fertility, and is ſo commodiouſly ſituated for the Indian trade, that from the firſt eſtabliſhment of the colony, it has been in a very

flouriſhing

flouriſhing condition, and maintained, even ſoon after the eſtabliſhment, ſix hundred whites in that trade alone. The Indian neighbours on their borders are the Upper and Lower Greeks, the Chickeſaws, and the Cherokees, who are ſome of the moſt numerous and powerful tribes in America. The trade in ſkins with this people was the largeſt we had, ſince it takes in that of Georgia, the two Carolinas, and that of Virginia.

From this conciſe view of the Thirteen United States of America, the conſequences of our late loſſes may be eaſily ſeen; conſequences which the riſing generation in England will brood over in gloomy ſilence, when they ſhall ſee themſelves rivalled in trade, their manufactures underſold in every market, and their moſt valuable artiſts, to avoid poverty at home, and the enormous weight of national and parochial taxes, flocking in crowds to the riſing empire on the other ſide of the Atlantic. All Europe will feel the ſhock, and her power and conſequence muſt naturally dwindle as thoſe of America ſhall riſe. Theſe are evils perhaps at ſome little diſtance; but experience teaches us, how rapid are the viciſſitudes of all human affairs, and how ſudden the riſe and fall of empires! Of this obſervation, a compariſon of what Great-Britain was at the end

of the laſt glorious war, with what ſhe i
at preſent, will afford too melancholy a proo

Short Account of the independent ſtate of VERMONT.

HAVING now taken a conciſe view o
the Thirteen United States of America
it may not be improper juſt to mention th
independent territory of Vermont, which
though not yet ranked as a fourteenth ſtat
has been admitted by congreſs into the fœde
ral union.

We have already obſerved in the courſe o
this work, that as the colonies encreaſed
men grew reſtleſs and diſſatisfied, and not li
king the government under which they lived
or excited by the hope of acquiring a fortun
more ſpeedily in a new territory, have found
ed new colonies, and thus extended the po
pulation of America. The ſame cauſe gav
birth to the new ſtate of Vermont, whoſ
hiſtory at preſent is but little known to u
Theſe people emigrated from New Hamp
ſhire and New York, and ſettled on the weſt
ward on lands then neither cultivated no
claimed by thoſe two provinces. Here the
ſoon grow numerous, and ſpread themſelve

a vaſt extent, as may be ſeen from the following boundaries, which they themſelves have preſcribed to congreſs as the limits of their territory. Beginning at the north weſt corner of the Maſſachuſett's ſtate which is the north weſt corner of Williamſtown, from there they extend on the north line of Maſſachuſett's to the weſt bank of Connecticut river; thence up the river as it tends to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; thence weſt on ſaid latitude line to the center of the deepeſt channel of lake Champlain, weſt of Miſſiſque bay; thence ſoutherly in the deepeſt channel of ſaid lake, as alſo the channels of South and Eaſt bay, the head of the latter; thence up the deepeſt channel of Poultney river to the weſt line of the towns of Poultney, Wells, Paulet, Rupert, Stangate, Arlington, Shaftesbury, Bennington, and Pownall, to the place of beginning. What may be the number of miles theſe extenſive boundaries include, is not eaſy to ſay, as we know of no maps of the back ſettlements, in which this infant but flouriſhing colony is ſettled, that can enable us to determine this matter with any preciſion.

The inhabitants of New Hampſhire and New York have long looked with a jealous eye on the riſing greatneſs of the Vermonteſe, whoſe ſituation enables them to rival their eaſtern neighbours in the Indian trade. The New-

Hampſhire men and the New Yorkers had
hopes of oppreſſing the Vermonteſe while the
were in the hands of the mother country; b
when the late ſtruggles broke out, they appli
to congreſs, repreſented the Vermonteſe as
diſaffected people, and accuſed them of h
ving encroached on the limits of their pr
vinces. The Vermonteſe, on their par
made remonſtrances to congreſs, praying
be conſidered as an independent ſtate, but
ſuch firmly attached to the general cauſe
American liberty; that they were willing
ſupply their quota of militia, and begged
be repreſented in congreſs by delegates,
be elected by the freemen of Vermont. Co
greſs, however, did not then think proper
comply with their demands, and decided i
favour of the provinces of New Hampſhir
and New York, by conſiderably contracti
the boundaries of Vermont.

Soon after this refuſal, the congreſs find
ing that Gen. Haldiman, governor of Can
da, had attempted to profit by the diſpute
and was forming a league with them, the
thought proper to relax in their former ſeve
rity, and tranſmitted a propoſal to the Ver
monteſe, ſtating, that they were willing t
admit their title to the rank of a free and in
dependent ſtate, the refuſal of which ha
been the principal ground of diſcon

This proposal was acceded to by a large majority in the provincial congress of Vermont, and the matter was finally adjusted in the month of April, 1782.

The persons, manners, and customs, of the Vermontese, are nearly the same with those provinces from whom they emigrated; but their soil and climate is said to be much better.

DESCRIPTION of EAST and WEST FLORIDA.

THESE two provinces were ceded by Great-Britain to the crown of Spain, by the same treaty of peace which declared the independency of North America, and for ever separated the Thirteen Provinces from the mother country. They are bounded on the North by Georgia and the Indian nations; on the east, by the Atlantic ocean; on the south, by the gulph of Mexico; and on the west, by the Louisiania; being above five hundred miles in length, and about four hundred and forty in breadth.

The accounts given of the air and climate of this part of America are so various, that it is difficult to reconcile them; some represent

ſent it as a paradiſe, while others conſider
only as a ſandy deſert. However, the mo
authentic accounts ſeem to be, that the air
pure and wholeſome, and this ſeems to b
proved from the ſize, vigour, and longevit
of the Florida Indians, who, in theſe reſpect
far exceed their more ſouthern neighbour
the Mexicans. It is a matter well atteſted
that many gentlemen, in a deep conſumpti
on, have aſcribed the recovery of thei
health to this climate; and it is a well know
fact, that the ninth Britiſh regiment, ſtat
oned on different parts of the coaſt, did no
loſe a ſingle man, in the ſpace of twelv
months, by natural death.

Eaſt-Florida, which borders on the ſea
and indeed for forty miles back, is flat an
ſandy; but even the country round St. Au
guſtine, to all appearance the worſt in the pro
vince, is far from being unfruitful: it ever
year produces two crops of Indian corn, th
garden vegetables are in great perfection, th
orange and lemon tree grow here withou
cultivation, and the inland country toward
the hills is extremely rich and fertile.

Notwithſtanding the advantages of th
ſoil, and the encouragement formerly give
by the mother-country, the ſettlement o
theſe colonies have gone on very ſlowly; an
it is not very probable that they will encreaſ
much

uch in the indolent hands of the Spa-
ards, though great advantages might be
rived from their ſituation. As its ports
e ſituated in the gulph of Mexico, it always
s a check upon Spain, as it commands the
ſſage to and from her ſettlements; for the
alloons and other ſhips, in their paſſage
om Vera Cruz in Mexico to the Havannah,
e obliged, on account of the north-eaſt
de winds, to ſtretch away to the northward
d generally keep as near the coaſt of Flo-
da as poſſible. In time of war, France and
ain ſuffered much, the harbours of Florida be-
g happily ſituated for the reception of our
ips of war, which, while they protected
r trade to the Weſt-Indian iſlands, were
ways handy to annoy the commerce of the
emy. Hence the advantages the Spaniards
ill derive from the poſſeſſion of theſe two
rovinces, and the future injury they may
o the trade of England, are too obvious.

Penſacola, which is the principal town in
Weſt-Florida, is ſituated within a bay of the
me name, on a ſandy ſhore, which can be
pproached only by ſmall veſſels. The
oad, however, is perhaps the beſt in the
ulph of Mexico, in which veſſels may lie in
afety, fearleſs of the fury of contending e-
ements, being ſurrounded by land on eve-
y ſide.

St.

St. Auguſtine, which is the capital of East-Florida, runs along the ſhore, and is tolerably well fortified; but our trade here was never of much conſequence.

Having thus taking a conciſe view of thoſe extenſive territories, which reach from New Hampſhire in the north, to the gulf of Mexico on the ſouth, all which, till lately, were members of the crown of Great Britain, but of which it has now no claim to a ſingle acre, we ſhall proceed to deſcribe the poor remains of our poſſeſſions in North America.

BRITISH AMERICA.

THE dominions of Great-Britain in North America are ſtill ſufficiently extenſive, were they equally fertile and inhabitable; but the greater part of them are horrid frozen deſerts, where no human creature can poſſibly exiſt. They are bounded on the north by unknown lands and frozen ſeas about the pole; on the eaſt, by the Atlantic ocean; on the ſouth, by the united ſtates; and on the weſt by unknown lands.

The

hese contain New Britain comprehending udſon's Bay; Canada, and Nova Scotia. ach of theſe we ſhall proceed to deſcribe.

EW BRITAIN, or LABRADOR.

THIS diviſion includes Hudſon's Bay, hich is bounded on the ſouth by the bay nd river of St. Laurence and Canada, on the ſt by the Atlantic ocean, and on the weſt nd north by unknown lands and frozen ſeas, onſequently the extent of this country cant be properly aſcertained.

In 1670, a charter was granted to a ompany for the excluſive trade to Hudſon's ay, and they have acted under it ever ſince ith great advantage to the individuals who ompoſe the company, though comparatively with little advantage to Great-Britain. is true, that their trade in beavers and oer ſpecies of the furs is not inconſiderable, nd it is a trade in itſelf of the beſt kind: its bject enters largely into our manufactures, nd carries nothing but our manufactures rom us to procure it. Hence it has the ualities of the moſt advantageous kinds of affic. The company has beſides pretty rge returns in beaver and deer ſkins.

The company has two conſider ble forts Hudſon's Bay, no colony having hith been attempted to be ſettled there. T country is every where barren; to the nor ward of the bay, even the hardy pine is ſee no longer, and the cold womb of the ear is incapable of any better productions th ſome miſerable ſhrubs. The winter reig with inconceivable rigour for near ni months of the year; the other three are vi lently hot, except when the north weſt win renews the memory of the winter. Ever kind of European ſeed, which we have co mitted to the earth in this inhoſpitable climat has hitherto periſhed; but, in all probabilit we have not tried the ſeed of corn from th northern parts of Sweden and Norway. I ſuch caſes, the place from whence the ſee comes is of great moment.

The animals of theſe countries are clothe with a cloſe, ſoft, warm fur. In ſummer there is here, as in other places, a variety i the colours of the ſeveral animals; but whe the ſummer is over, they all aſſume the liv ry of winter, and every ſort of beaſts, an moſt of their fowls, are the colour of th ſnow. Every thing animate and inanima is white. This is a ſurpriſing phænomenon but what is ſtill more ſurpriſing, and wh is indeed one of thoſe ſtriking inſtances th dra

raw the moſt inattentive to an admiration
f the wiſdom and goodneſs of Prov dence,
, that the dogs and cats, that have been
rried from England to Hudſon's Bay, on
e approach of winter, have entirely alter
d their appearance, and acquired a much
nger, ſofter, and thicker coat of hair, than
ey originally had.

Among the different animals met with in
eſe cold regions of the world are the mooſe
nd rein-deer, ſtags, bears, tygers, wolves,
xes, beavers, otters, martins, ſquirrels,
ild cats, and hares. The feathered inhabi-
nts of theſe regions of ice are geeſe, ducks,
uſtards, partridges, and the different ſpecies
f wild fowls. Their ſeas abound with
hales and ſeals, and cod-fiſh are caught in
lenty near their ſhores. Their rivers pro-
uce moſt of thoſe fiſh common to more
outhern countries, ſuch as pike, trout, carp,
nd perch. All the quadrupedes of this
ew world are leſs than thoſe of the old; e-
en ſuch as are carried from Europe to breed
here, are often found to degenerate, but
ever ſeen to improve. Beaſts of prey, which
re often fatal to a man in Africa and Aſia,
re here quite harmleſs.

As for the men of this country, Providence
as given them no proviſion but what their
wn art and ingenuity procure them; and

they are very ingenious in their manner of kindling a fire, in cloathing themſelves, and in preſerving their eyes from the ill effects of that glaring white, which every where ſurrounds them for the greater part of the year; but in other reſpects they are very ſavage. In their ſhapes and faces, they do not reſemble the Americans who live to the ſouthward; they are much more like the Laplanders of Europe, from whom they are probably deſcended.

As to the dreſs of theſe people, much might be ſaid, and that too not unentertaining; but in this we ſhall be very conciſe. The men's clothes are of ſeal ſkins, deer ſkins, and ſometimes alſo are made of the ſkins of land and ſea-fowl ſewed together. Each of their coats has a hood like a capuchin, is cloſe from the breaſt, and reaches not lower than the middle of the thigh. Their breeches are cloſe before and behind, gathered like a purſe with a ſtring, and tied about their waiſt. They have ſeveral pair of boots and ſocks which they wear over one another to keep them warm, and which keep out the water. The odds between the dreſs of the men and the women is, that the women have a train to their jackets, that reaches down to their heels. Their hoods are alſo larger and wider at the ſhoulders, for the purpoſe of carrying their

their children in them more conveniently on their backs, and their boots are a great deal wider, and are commonly ſtuck out with ſticks of whalebone. Some of them wear ſhifts of ſeal bladders, nearly of the form of thoſe in Europe. In general, their clothes are ſewed very neatly, which is performed with an ivory needle, and the ſinews of deers ſplit fine, and ſo uſed for thread. There is alſo a good deal of taſte and judgment diſcovered in their manner of adorning them with ſtripes of different-coloured ſkins, ſewed in the manner of borders, cuffs, and robings for their clothes, which look very tight, neat, and even elegant.

The condition of theſe people is melancholy enough, though it does not make ſuch an impreſſion on them as one would expect; though the greater part of their life is ſpent in procuring neceſſaries for the ſubſiſtence of themſelves and their families, yet they have no great notion of frugality, or providing againſt thoſe diſtreſſes, to which they are ſure to be expoſed every winter. They are very free of their proviſions when they have plenty, and, except drying a little veniſon and fiſh, take no care for ſupplies in time of dearth.

It has ſometimes happened that the Indians, who come in the ſummer to trade at

the factories, miſſing of the ſuccour they expected, have been obliged to ſinge off the hair from thouſands of beaver ſkins, in order to feed upon the leather. Yet even in ſuch caſes they keep up their ſpirits in a tolerable degree, omit nothing that is in their power to procure wherewith to ſupport their families, and, when reduced to the greateſt neceſſities, undergo them with a kind of habitual and ſteady patience, which is much eaſier to admire than imitate. But the greateſt of thoſe hardſhips and fatigues, to which they are expoſed, as well from hunger as from cold, happen to them in their journies; for it is a thing common with them to travel two or three hundred miles, through a wide open country, without meeting with any houſe to receive, or carrying any tent to protect them. In ſuch journies it is their cuſtom, when night approaches, to raiſe a little kind of fence with bruſh wood, to the leeward of which they make a fire, and, after clearing away the ſnow, they lie down upon the ground, and ſleep between the fire and the fence; but if, as it ſometimes happens, they ſhould be benighted upon ſome wild plain, where no ſuch fence can be made for want of wood, they are then forced to lie down under the ſnow, which proves ſome defence from the cold. This appears from

the

the writings of modern authors, in a custom likewise practised in the extremities of Siberia, where the climate is equally intemperate.

CANADA, or the PROVINCE of QUEBEC.

TO describe particularly the limits of these northern regions, which still belong to the crown of Great-Britain, as settled by the late treaty of peace, would be tedious, and perhaps unnecessary, in a design like this; we shall therefore content ourselves with observing, that this extensive province is bounded on the north by New Britain and Hudson's Bay, by Indian nations on the east, by New England on the south, and by unknown lands on the west.

The greatest forests in the world are in the uncultivated parts of America, and a more magnificent sight than these woods cannot be imagined. The tops of the trees lose themselves in the clouds, and there is a such a prodigious variety of species, that even among those persons, who have taken most pains to know them, there is not perhaps one capable of describing half the number. This province produces, amidst the great

great variety, two ſorts of pine, the white and red; four ſorts of firs; two ſorts of cedar and oak; the male and female maple; three ſorts of aſh-trees, three ſorts of walnut-trees, the hard, the ſoft, and the ſmooth; vaſt numbers of beech trees and white wood; white and red elms, and poplars.

The Canadians raiſe no ſtaple commodity to anſwer their demands upon England, their trade with the Indians producing all their returns from that market, which principally are the furs of the beaver, and thoſe of foxes and racoons, with deer ſkins, and all the branches of the peltry. Theſe, with what corn and lumber they ſend to the Weſt Indies, furniſh, though very little money, yet wherewithal to render life eaſy and agreeable to a people, who are not very luxurious, nor extremely numerous.

The nature of the climate ſeverely cold for the moſt part, and the people manufacturing nothing, ſhews what the country wants from Europe; wine, brandy, coarſe cloths, linen, and wrought iron. The Indian trade requires tobacco, brandy, a ſort of duffil, blankets, guns, powder and ball, kettles, hatchets, and tomahawks, with ſeveral toys and trinkets. The Indians ſupply the peltry, and we have traders, who, in the manner of the original inhabitants, traverſing the vaſt lakes and rivers that divide their country

country, in canoes of bark, with incredible induſtry and patience, carry their goods into the remoteſt parts of America, and among nations entirely unknown to us. This again brings the market home to us, as the Indians are hereby habituated to trade with us. For this purpoſe, people from all parts, even from the diſtance of a thouſand miles, come to the fair of Montreal, which is held in June. As the fur trade ſeems to be the principal object of this province, and from which alone it can be materially uſeful to England, it is to be hoped, that this government will do all they can to encourage it, eſpecially as we have now loſt all the fruitful ſouthern provinces. Our merchants at home, however, very loudly complain, that the boundaries fixed to our remaining poſſeſſions are ſo contracted, as to open a ſpacious field for the united ſtates to entirely deprive us of this trade, without which, Canada, and all its appendages, will prove rather a burden, than of any real uſe to us. Time will clear up this doubtful point.

Montreal is ſituated in an iſland in the river St Laurence. This iſland lies in a very favourable climate, and is well inhabited and well planted. The city is agreeably ſituated on a branch of St. Laurence. It forms an oblong ſquare, divided by regular and well-

well-cut ſtreets; it contains three convents, with handſome churches, and an hoſpital for the ſick. The fortifications are pretty good, and the inhabitants about ſix thouſand. The rivers are navigable hitherto only by canoes, or ſmall craft, having ſeveral falls between this and Quebec; yet the Indian fair and the trade of the ſame kind, which they drive more or leſs for the whole year, make it no inconſiderable place.

Quebec, the capital, lies much nearer to the ſea, from which, however, it is one hundred and fifty miles diſtant. The river, which from the ſea hither is ten or twelve miles broad, narrows all of a ſudden to about a mile wide. This town is divided into an upper and a lower; the houſes in both are of ſtone, and tolerably well built. The fortifications are ſtrong, though not regular; but its ſituation on a rock, waſhed by the river St. Laurence, is its chief defence. The city is a biſhopric, though the cathedral is mean; but the epiſcopal palace has a good appearance. Here is likewiſe a college of Jeſuits, not inelegant; two convents, and two hoſpitals. This town is covered with a regular and beautiful citadel, in which the governor reſides. This city, though the capital of Canada, is however not very large, and contains only about eight or nine thouſand

ſand inhabitants. Ships of the greateſt burden load and unload here, and here a good many are built.

From Quebec to Montreal, which is about one hundred and fifty miles diſtance, the country on both ſides the river is very well ſettled, and has an agreeable effect upon the eye. The farms lie pretty cloſe all the way; ſeveral gentlemen's houſes, neatly built, ſhew themſelves at intervals, and there is all the appearance of a flouriſhing colony; but there are no towns or villages. It is pretty much like the well-ſettled parts of Virginia and Maryland, where the planters are wholly within themſelves, and each family has the appearance of a little ſtate.

The animals that find nouriſhment and ſhelter in the immenſe foreſts of Canada, are ſtags, elks, deer, bears, foxes, martins, wild cats, ferrets, and rabbits. The marſhes, lakes, and pools, which in this country are very numerous, ſwarm with otters, beavers, or caſtors, of which the white are much valued. Wolves are very ſeldom ſeen in Canada; but the few that there are, afford the fineſt furs in all the country.

Of the feathered creation, they have eagles, falcons, partridges, ſnipes; and other water game, are plentiful in Canada, but woodcocks are ſeldom ſeen. Here are likewiſe

wiſe a variety of other birds peculiar to the northern parts of Europe; but the chief Canadian bird of melody is the white bird, which is a kind of ortolan, makes a very pretty appearance, and is remarakble for announcing the return of ſpring, as the cuckow is in England.

The rattle ſnakes appears the only reptile in this country worthy of our notice, ſome of which are as thick as a man's leg, and five or ſix feet in length. The tail, which is the moſt remarkable part of this animal, is ſcaly like a coat of mail, and on which, 'tis ſaid, there grows every year one ring, or row of ſcales. In moving it makes a rattling noiſe, and from hence it derives its name. The bite of this animal is mortal, if a remedy be not inſtantly applied; but providence has been pleaſed ſo to direct it, that wherever this ſerpent lurks, a plant grows, which affords an infallible cure to the wounded perſon.

The lakes of Canada abound with innumerable ſpecies of fiſh, among which are ſea calves, ſea cows, porpoiſes, ſea plaiſe, and moſt of thoſe kinds common to us in Europe

NOVA

NOVA SCOTIA.

THIS colony, which is by no means in a very thriving condition, is bounded on the north by the river St. Laurence; on the east, by the gulph of St. Laurence; on the south, by the Atlantic ocean; and on the west, by Canada and New England; being about three hundred and fifty miles in length, and two hundred and fifty in breadth.

Though this extenſive province lies in a very favourable part of the temperate zone, it has a winter of an almoſt inſupportable length and coldneſs, continuing at leaſt ſeven months in the year; to this immediately ſucceeds, without the intervenſion of any thing that may be called ſpring, a ſummer of an heat as violent as the cold, though of no longer continuance; and they are wrapt in the gloom of a perpetual fog, even long after the ſummer has commenced. In moſt parts, the ſoil is thin and barren, the corn it produces of a ſhrivelled kind like rye, and the graſs is intermixed with a cold ſpongy moſs. However, it is not uniformly bad, there being tracts in Nova Scotia, which do not yield to the beſt land in England.

Unpromiſing as this country is, yet, ne-
glecting all the delightful tracts to the ſouth-
ward, it was here that ſome of the firſt Eu-
ropean ſettlements were made. The French
ſeated themſelves here before they made any
eſtabliſhment in Canada. Whatever unac-
countable ignorance influenced their choice,
the induſtry and vigour of that time deſerve
our applauſe; for, though they had infinitely
more difficulties to ſtruggle with than we
have at this day, and not the hundredth part
of the ſuccours from Europe, yet they ſubſiſt-
ted in a tolerable manner, and encreaſed
largely; whereas the colony, which in our
days we have fixed there, if the ſupport of
the royal hand were withdrawn but for a
moment, after all the immenſe ſums which
have been expended in its eſtabliſhment,
would undoubtedly ſoon ſink into nothing.
As it is with difficulty it ſubſiſts, even encou-
raged and ſupported as it is. Yet the deſign
of eſtabliſhing a colony here, with whatever
difficulties it might have been attended, was
a very prudent meaſure; for the French
would undoubtedly have taken the advantage
of our neglect, and would by ſome means
have got this country into their hands, to the
great annoyance of all our then colonies, and
to the great benefit of their fiſheries and their
ſugar iſlands.

The

The chief town we had formerly in this province was called Annapolis Royal; but, though the capital, it was a ſmall place wretchedly fortified, and yet worſe built and inhabited. Here were ſtationed the remains of a regiment, which continued there, very little recruited, for ſeveral years; but tho' this place never flouriſhed, it ſtood upon the beſt harbour, as it is ſaid, in all North America. It was not here, but on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the peninſula, that the ſettlement not many years ſince reſolved on and executed with ſo much ſpirit, was eſtabliſhed. This too ſtands upon a fine harbour, very commodiouſly ſituated, and rather better than Annapolis for the fiſhery. This town is called Halifax, from the noble earl, to whoſe wiſdom and care we owe this ſettlement. In 1745, three thouſand families, at an immenſe charge to the government, were tranſported into this country at once, and three regiments ſtationed there to protect them from the Indians, who always ſhowed themſelves our implacable enemies. The town is large and well built, it has a good entrenchment of timber, with ſome forts of the ſame materials. Though the town of Halifax has, all things conſidered, a tolerable appearance, the adjacent country is not improved in proportion; the ground

is very hard to be cleared; when cleared, does not produce a great deal, and labour is extravagantly dear.

Beſides Annapolis and Halifax, we have another ſettlement a little to the ſouth weſt of the latter, called Lunenburgh. This is a branch of Germans from Halifax, who, being diſcontented at the infertility of the ſoil there, deſired to go where there was better land to be had, undertaking their own defence. Accordingly they ſettled where they deſired, to the number of ſeven or eight hundred, and ſucceeded tolerably well.

The animal productions of this country are not very different from thoſe of Canada, though the principal are deers, beavers, otters, wild fowl, and all manner of game, and many kinds of European fowls and quadrupedes have, from time to time, been brought into it, and anſwer every expectation. At the cloſe of March, the fiſh begin to ſpawn, when they enter the rivers in ſuch ſhoals, as are almoſt incredible. Herrings come up in April, and the ſturgeon and ſalmon in May. However, the moſt valuable conſideration in this ſettlement is the Cape Sable coaſt, along which is one continued range of cod-fiſhing banks, and harbours moſt advantageouſly formed by nature.

Woolen and linen cloth, and other neceſ-

faries for wear, fiſhing-tackle, and rigging for ſhips, are the chief exports from Great-Britain to this country; and the only articles we get in exchange are timber, and the produce of the fiſhery.

BRITISH AMERICAN and WEST-INDIAN ISLANDS.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

THIS iſland is bounded on the weſt by the gulph of St. Laurence; on the north, by Labrador, or New Britain; and on the eaſt and ſouth, by the Atlantic ocean; being three hundred and fifty miles long, and two hundred broad.

From the ſoil of this iſland we were far from reaping any ſudden or great advantage; for the cold is long continued and intenſe, and the ſummer heats, though violent warm, is not enough to produce any thing valuable. The ſoil, at leaſt in thoſe parts of the iſland with which we are acquainted, (for we are far from knowing the whole) is rocky and

barren. However, it has many large and ſafe harbours, and ſeveral good rivers water it. This iſland, now we have loſt ſo great a part of the American continent, will not fail to be of great ſervice to us, in affording us a copious ſupply of maſts, yards, and all ſorts of lumber for the Weſt India trade. But what at preſent it is chiefly valuable for, is the great fiſhery of cod, which is carried on upon thoſe ſhoals, which are called the Banks of Newfoundland. This fiſhery is computed to encreaſe the national ſtock three hundred thouſand pounds a year in gold and ſilver, remitted to us for the cod we ſell in the north, in Spain, Portugal, Italy, and the Levant. The plenty of cod, both on the great bank and the ſmaller ones, which lie to the eaſt and ſouth eaſt of this iſland, is inconceivable; and not only cod, but ſeveral other ſpecies of fiſh, are there in abundance. All theſe ſpecies are nearly in equal plenty all along the ſhores of New England, Nova Scotia, and the iſle of Cape Breton, and conſequently excellent fiſheries are carried on upon all their coaſts. The chief towns in Newfoundland are Placentia, Bonavilla, and St. John; but there do not remain on this iſland in the winter above a thouſand families.

By the treaty of peace in 1783, the iſlands of St. Pierre and Miquelon are ceded to the French,

French, whoſe fiſhery commences at Cape St. John, goes round by the north, down to the weſtern coaſt of the iſland of Newfoundland, and has for its boundary Cape Raye, ſituated in 47 degrees 50 minutes latitude. With regard to the right of fiſhing in the gulph of St. Laurence, the French continue to enjoy it conformably to the fifth article of the treaty of Paris. By the above treaty of 1783, it is agreed, that the people of the United States of America ſhall continue to enjoy, unmoleſted, the right to take fiſh, of every kind, on the grand bank, and on all the other banks of Newfoundland; alſo in the gulph of St. Laurence, and at all other places in the ſea, where the inhabitants of both countries uſed heretofore to fiſh; and alſo, that the inhabitants of the United States ſhall have liberty to take fiſh, of every kind, on ſuch part of the coaſt of Newfoundland as Britiſh fiſhermen ſhall uſe, but not to dry or cure the ſame on that iſland. This treaty further permits the American fiſhermen, to dry and cure fiſh in any of the unſettled bays, harbours, and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen iſlands, and Labrador, ſo long as the ſame ſhall remain unſettled; but as ſoon as the ſame, or either of them, ſhall be ſettled, ſuch right ſhall ceaſe.

ST. JOHN'S.

THIS iſland lies in the gulph of St. Laurence, and is about ſixty miles in length, and thirty or forty in breadth. It has many fine rivers, and has greatly the advantage of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, in point of pleaſantneſs and fertility. As ſoon as Cape Breton fell into our hands, the inhabitants of this iſland, amounting to about four thouſand, ſubmitted quietly to the Britiſh arms; and, to the diſgrace of the French governor, there were found in his houſe ſeveral Engliſh ſcalps, which were brought there to market by the ſavages of Nova Scotia, this being the place where they were encouraged to carry on that unhuman and barbarous trade. This iſland was ſo well improved by the French, that is was called the granary of Canada, which is furniſhed with great plenty of corn, as well as pork and beef.

CAPE

CAPE BRETON.

THIS iſland is ſituated between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, at the entrance of the gulph of St. Laurence. It is about one hundred and forty miles in length, and about fifty in breadth, full of mountains and lakes, and interſected by a vaſt number of creeks and bays, almoſt meeting each other on every ſide. The ſoil is in many places ſufficiently fruitful, and in every part abounds with timber ſufficient for all uſes. In the earth are coal pits, and on the ſhores one of the moſt valuable fiſheries in the world. The only town in this iſland is Louiſburgh, which ſtands upon one of the fineſt harbours in all America. This harbour is four leagues in circumference, land locked every way but at the mouth, which is narrow, and within there is fine anchorage every where in ſeven fathom water. The town itſelf is of a tolerable ſize, and well fortified. The harbour is defended by batteries of cannon and forts, which effectually ſecure it. The iſland was taken from the French in 1758, when all the garriſon, conſiſting of 5600 men, were made priſoners of war; and eleven French-

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men of war in the harbour were either taken, ſunk, or deſtroyed.

BERMUDAS, or SUMMER ISLANDS.

THESE iſlands lie in a cluſter, at a vaſt diſtance from the continent, in latitude 31. They were very early ſettled, and were much celebrated in the time of the civil wars, when ſeveral of the cavalier party being obliged to retire to America, ſome of them, particularly Mr. Waller, the poet, ſpent ſome time in this iſland. Waller was extremely enamoured with the ſerenity of the air, and richneſs of the vegetable productions of theſe iſlands; he celebrated them in a poem, which is fine but unequal, written by him upon this ſubject.

The Bermudas are but ſmall, not containing in all upwards of twenty thouſand acres. They are very difficult of acceſs, being, as Waller expreſſes it, walled with rocks. What has been ſaid of that clearneſs and ſerenity of the air, and of the healthineſs of the climate, was not exaggerated; but the ſoil could never boaſt of any extraordinary fertility. Their beſt production was cedar, which was ſuperior to any thing of the kind in America.

merica. It is ſtill ſo, though diminiſhed conſiderably in quantity; which has, as it is imagined, changed the air much for the worſe, as it is now much more inconſtant than formerly; and ſeveral tender vegetables, which flouriſhed here at the firſt ſettlement, being deprived of their ſhelter, and expoſed to the bleak northerly winds, are ſeen no more.

The chief, and indeed only buſineſs of theſe iſlanders, is the building and navigating light ſloops and brigantines, built with their cedar, which they employ chiefly in the trade between North America and the Weſt Indies. Theſe veſſels are remarkable for their ſwiftneſs as the wood of which they are built is for its hard and durable quality. They export nothing from themſelves but ſome white ſtone to the Weſt Indies, and ſome of their garden productions. To England they ſend nothing. Formerly they made a good deal of money of a ſort of hats for women's wear, made of the leaves of their palmettos, which, while the faſhion laſted, were elegant; but the trade and the faſhion are gone together

Their whites are computed to be about five thouſand; the blacks, which they breed are the beſt in America, and as uſeful as the whites in their navigation. The people of the

the Bermudas are poor, but healthy, contented, and remarkably chearful. It is extremely ſurpriſing, that they do not ſet themſelves heartily to the cultivation of vines in this iſland, to which their rocky ſoil ſeems admirably adapted. Their ſituation and the manner of trade they are already engaged in, would facilitate the diſtribution of their wine to every part of North America and the Weſt Indies.

The capital town is called St. George, is ſituated at the bottom of a haven in the iſland of the ſame name, and is defended by ſeven or eight forts, which are mounted with ſeventy pieces of cannon. It has a handſome church, beſides other elegant public buildings and contains above a thouſand houſes.

BAHAMA ISLANDS.

THE Bahamas are a cluſter of iſlands ſituated on the ſouth of Carolina, from latitude 22 to 27; they extend along the coaſt of Florida quite down to the iſle of Cuba, and are ſaid to be five hundred in number. Some of them are only mere rocks; but a great many

many others are large, fertile, and differ very little from the ſoil of Carolina.

All theſe iſlands, however, are uninhabited, except Providence, which is neither the largeſt nor the moſt fertile. This iſland was formerly a receptacle for the pirates, who for a long time infeſted the American navigation. This obliged the government to erect a fort there, to ſtation an independent company in the iſland, and to ſend thither a governor. This iſland has but little trade, excepting in ſome oranges, which they uſed to ſend to North America. However, in time of war, it makes conſiderably by the prizes condemned here; and, in time of peace, by the wrecks, which are frequent in this labyrinth of rocks and ſhelves. But it may reaſonably be expected, that, as our American poſſeſſions are ſo conſiderably curtailed, government will not fail to exert themſelves in improving, as much as poſſible, the little that is left us.

JAMAICA.

THIS iſland which is the moſt valuable of any we poſſeſs in the Weſt Indies, lies in the gulph of Mexico, between the ſeventy-fifth and ſeventy ninth degree of weſt longitude from London, and between ſeventeen and nineteen degrees north of the equinoctial, being a hundred and forty Engliſh miles from eaſt to weſt, and about ſixty in breadth.

This iſland is in a manner interſected by a ridge of lofty mountains, rugged and rocky, and are called the Blue Mountains. On each ſide of theſe are chains of ſmaller mountains, which gradually decreaſe. The greater mountains are little better than ſo many rocks; and where there is any earth, it is only a ſtubborn clay fit for no ſort of huſbandry. The mountains are very ſteep, and the rocks tumbled one upon another in a manner altogether ſtupendous, the effect of frequent earthquakes, which have ſhaken this iſland at various times. Yet barren as theſe mountains are, they are all covered to the very top with a great variety of beautiful trees, flouriſhing in a perpetual ſpring; their roots penetrate the crannies of the rocks, and ſearch

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out the moiſture that is lodged by the rains that fall ſo frequently on theſe mountains, and the miſts that almoſt perpetually brood upon them. Theſe rocks too are the parent of a vaſt number of fine rivulets, which tumble down their ſides in cataracts, and form, among the rudeneſs of the rocks and precipices, and the ſhining verdure of the trees, the moſt romantic and pleaſing imagery imaginable.

The face of this country is a good deal different from what is generally obſerved in other places; for as, on one hand, the mountains are very ſteep, ſo the plains between them are perfectly ſmooth and level. In theſe plains, the ſoil, augmented by the waſh of mountains for ſo many ages, is prodigiouſly fertile. None of our iſlands produce ſuch fine ſugars.

The paſtures, after the rains, are of a moſt beautiful verdure, and extraordinary fatneſs. On the whole, if this iſland was not troubled with violent thunders and lightnings, hurricanes, and earthquakes, and, if the air was not at once violently hot, damp, and extremely unwholeſome in moſt parts, the fertility and beauty of this country would make it as deſirable a ſituation for pleaſure as it is for profit, which, in ſpite of theſe diſadvantages, draw hither vaſt numbers of people.

The river waters are many of them unwholſome, and taſte of copper; but there are ſome ſprings of a better kind. In the plains are found ſeveral ſalt fountains; and in the mountains, not far from Spaniſh town, is a hot bath of extraordinary medicinal virtues.

This iſland came into our poſſeſſion during the uſurpation of Cromwell, and by means of an armament which had another deſtination. Cromwell, notwithſtanding the great abilities which enabled him to overturn the conſtitution, and to trample upon the liberties of his country, was not ſufficiently acquainted with foreign politics. This ignorance made him connect himſelf cloſely with France, then riſing into a dangerous grandeur, and to fight, with great animoſity, the ſhadow which remained of the Spaniſh power. On ſuch ideas he fitted out a formidable fleet, with a view to reduce the iſland of Hiſpaniola; and, though he failed in this deſign, Jamaica made amends not only for this failure, but almoſt for the ill policy, which firſt drew him into hoſtilities with the Spaniards; by which, however, he added this valuable iſland to the Britiſh dominions.

The natural produce of this iſland, beſides ſugar, cocoa, and ginger, are principally pimento, or, as it is called, all-ſpice, or Jamaica pepper. Here alſo is the wild cinna-

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mon-tree, whoſe bark is ſo ſerviceable in medicine; the manchineel, a moſt beautiful tree to the eye, with the faireſt apple in the world, and, when cut down, affords a very fine ornamental wood for the joiners; but the fruit contains one of the worſt poiſons in nature. Here is alſo mahogony, in ſuch general uſe with cabinet-makers; the cabbage-tree, a tall plant, famous for a ſubſtance, looking and taſting like cabbages, growing on the very top, and not leſs remarkable for the extreme hardneſs of its wood, which, when dry, is incorruptible, and hardly yields to any tool; the palma, from which is drawn a great deal of oil, much eſteemed by the negroes both in food and medicine; the white-wood, which never breeds worms when uſed in ſhip-building; the ſap-tree, whoſe berries anſwer all purpoſes of waſhing; the mangrove and olive-bark, uſeful to tanners; the fuſtic and red-wood uſeful to the dyers, and lately the logwood; and their foreſts ſupply the apothecary with guaicum, ſarſaparilla, china, caſſia, and tamarinds. They have aloes too, and do not want the cochineal plant, though they know nothing of the art of managing it, nor perhaps is the climate ſuitable. The indigo plant was here formerly much cultivated; the cotton-tree is ſtill ſo, and they ſend home more of its wool

than all the reſt of our iſlands together. The rum of this iſland is generally eſteemed the beſt, and is the moſt uſed in England.

Port-Royal was anciently the capital of this iſland; it ſtood upon the very point of a long narrow neck of land, which, towards the ſea, formed part of the border of a very noble harbour of its own name. In this harbour above a thouſand ſail of the largeſt ſhips could anchor with the greateſt conveniency and ſafety; and the water was ſo deep at the key of Port Royal, that veſſels of the greateſt burden could lay their broadſides to the wharfs, and load and unload at little expence or trouble.

This conveniency weighed ſo much with the inhabitants, that they choſe on this ſpot to build their capital, though the place was a hot dry ſand, which produced not one of the neceſſaries of life, not even freſh water. However its advantageous ſituation, and the reſort of the pirates, ſoon made it a very conſiderable place. It contained two thouſand houſes very handſomely built, and which rented as high as thoſe in London. It had a reſort like a conſtant fair, by the great concourſe of people of buſineſs, and grew to all this in about thirty years time; for before that there was ſcarcely a houſe upon the place. In ſhort, there were very

few

few places in the world, which, for the ſize could be compared to this town for trade, wealth, and an entire corruption of manners.

It continued this till the 9th of June, 1692, when an earthquake, which ſhook the whole iſland to its foundation, overwhelmed the city, and left, in one quarter, not even the ſmalleſt veſtige remaining. In two minutes the earth opened and ſwallowed up nine-tenths of the houſes, and two thouſand people. The water guſhed out from the openings of the earth, and tumbled the people on heaps; but ſome of them had the good fortune to catch hold of beams and rafters of houſes, and were afterwards ſaved by boats. Several ſhips were loſt in the harbour, and the Swan frigate, which lay in the dock to careen, was carried over the tops of ſinking houſes, and did not overſet, but afforded a retreat to ſome hundreds of people, who ſaved their lives in her. An officer, who was in the town at this time, ſays, the earth opened and ſhut very quick in ſome places, and he ſaw ſeveral people ſink down to the middle, and others appeared with their heads juſt above ground, and were ſqueezed to death. At Savannah above a thouſand acres were ſunk, with the houſes and people in them; and the place appearing for ſome time

time like a lake, was afterwards dried up, but no houſes were ſeen. In ſome parts, mountains were ſplit, and, at one place, a plantation was removed to the diſtance of a mile.

They rebuilt this city after the earthquake, but it was again deſtroyed; for a terrible fire laid it in aſhes about ten years after. Notwithſtanding this, the extraordinary convenience of the harbour tempted them to rebuild it once more; but in the year 1722, a hurricane, one of the moſt terrible on record, reduced it a third time to a heap of rubbiſh. Warned by theſe extraordinary calamities, which ſeemed to mark out this place as a devoted ſpot, by an act of aſſembly, they removed the cuſtom-houſe and public offices from thence, and forbid that any market ſhould be held there for the future.

The principal inhabitants came to reſide at the oppoſite ſide of the bay, at a place called Kingſton. This town is advantageouſly ſituated for freſh water, and all manner of accommodations. The ſtreets are of a commodious width, regularly drawn, and cutting each other at equal diſtances and right angles. It conſiſts of upwards of one thouſand houſes, many of them handſomely built, though low, with porticoes, and every

ry conveniency for a comfortable habitation in that climate.

The river Cobre, a conſiderable, but not navigable ſtream, falls into the ſea not far from Kingſton. Upon the banks of this river ſtands St. Jago de la Vega, or Spaniſh-town, the ſeat of government, and the place where the courts of juſtice are held, and conſequently the capital of Jamaica, though inferior in ſize and reſort to Kingſton.

This, however, though a town of leſs buſineſs, has more gaiety. Here reſide many perſons of large fortunes, and who make a proportionable figure. The number of coaches kept here is very conſiderable; here is a regular aſſembly, and the reſidence of the governor, and the principal officers of the government, who have all very profitable places. The government of this iſland is, next to Ireland, the beſt in the king's gift, the ſalary being two thouſand five hundred pounds a year, and the aſſembly vote him as much more. This, with the other great profits of his office, make it in the whole little inferior to ten thouſand pounds a year.

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BARBADOES.

THIS iſland in point of importance, is, next to Jamaica, the beſt we poſſeſs in the Weſt Indies, but it is the oldeſt in point of ſettlement. This is one, and by no means the moſt contemptible one, among the windward diviſions of the Caribbee iſlands. It is ſituated in fifty nine degrees weſt longitude, and thirteen degrees north latitude, being twenty-one miles in length, and fourteen in breadth.

It is not certainly known when this iſland was firſt diſcovered or ſettled; but it was probably ſome time about the year 1625. When the Engliſh firſt landed here, they found the place the moſt ſavage and deſtitute that can be imagined. It had not the leaſt appearance of ever having been peopled, even by ſavages. There was no kind of beaſt of paſture or of prey, no fruit, no herb, nor root fit for ſupporting the life of man. However, as the climate was good, and the ſoil appeared fertile, ſome gentlemen of ſmall fortunes in England reſolved to become adventurers thither; but the firſt planters had not only the utter deſolateneſs of the place, and

and the extreme want of proviſions, to ſtruggle with, but the trees were ſo large, of a wood ſo hard and ſtubborn, and full of ſuch great branches, that they proceeded in the clearing of the ground with a difficulty that might have worn down any ordinary patience. Even when they had tolerably cleared ſome little ſpot, the firſt produce it yielded for their ſubſiſtence was ſo ſmall and ordinary, at the ſame time that their ſupplies from England were ſo ſlow and precarious, that nothing but the nobleſt courage, and a firmneſs which cannot receive too many praiſes, could have carried them through the diſcouragements they met with in the nobleſt work in the world, the cultivation and peopling a deſert part of the globe. By degrees, however, things were mollified; ſome of the trees yielded fuſtic for the dyers; cotton and indigo agreed well with the ſoil; tobacco, then becoming faſhionable in England, anſwered tolerably, and the country began gradually to lay aſide its ſavage diſpoſition, and to ſubmit to culture.

Such was the thriving condition of this iſland, that, in 1676, when it was in the meridian of its greatneſs, their whites were computed at ſixty thouſand; but their negroe ſlaves were encreaſed ſo as to be upwards of one hundred thouſand of all kinds. They em-

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ploy four hundred ſail of ſhips, one with another of an hundred and fifty tons, in their trade. Their annual exported produce of ſugar, indigo, ginger, cotton, &c. amounted to upwards of three hundred and fifty thouſand pounds, and their circulating caſh at home was two hundred thouſand.

It is probable, that Holland itſelf, or perhaps even the beſt inhabited parts of China, were never peopled to the ſame proportion, nor have they land of the ſame dimenſions, which produces any thing like the ſame profits; but ſince that time the iſland has been much upon the decline. The growth of the French ſugar iſlands, and the ſettlement of Antigua, St. Chriſtopher, Nevis, and Monſerrat, as well as the greater eſtabliſhment in Jamaica, have drawn away, from time to time, a vaſt number of their people.

A terrible contagion, ſaid to be brought over by the troops from England, but more probably derived from the coaſt of Africa, attacked this iſland in the year 1692. It raged like a peſtilence, twenty died in a day in their principal town, and all parts of the iſland ſuffered in proportion. This ſickneſs continued, with ſome abatements, for ſeveral years, and left an ill diſpoſition in the climate ever afterwards.

War raged at the ſame time with this diſtemper,

temper, and the Barbadians, who raiſed a good number of men, loſt many of them in fruitleſs expeditions againſt the French iſlands. The land too began not to yield quite ſo kindly as it formerly had done, and in ſome places they were obliged to manure it. All theſe cauſes contributed to reduce the number and opulence of this celebrated iſland. However, it may ſtill be conſidered as in a flouriſhing condition; for even now it is ſaid to contain twenty-five thouſand whites, very near eighty thouſand negroes, and it ſhips above twenty five thouſand hogſheads of ſugar, to the value of three hundred thouſand pounds, beſides, rum, molaſſes, cotton, ginger, and aloes; an immenſe peopling and produce, for a country not containing more than one thouſand acres of land.

This iſland can raiſe near five thouſand men of its own militia, and is fortified by nature all along the windward ſhore by the rocks and ſhoals, ſo as to be near two thirds utterly inacceſſible. On the leeward ſide it has good harbours; but the whole coaſt is protected by a line of ſeveral miles in length, and ſeveral forts to defend it at the moſt material places.

They ſupport their own eſtabliſhment, which is very conſiderable, with great credit. The governor's place is worth at leaſt five

thouſand pounds a year, and the reſt of their officers have valuable appointments. They provide very handſomely for their clergy, who are of the church of England, which is the religion eſtabliſhed here, as it is in the other iſlands. Here are very few diſſenters. There is in general an appearance of ſomething more of order and decency, and of a ſettled people, than in any other colony in the Weſt Indies. They have here a college, founded and well endowed by the virtue and liberality of that great man, Col. Chriſtopher Codrington, who was a native of this iſland, and who, for a great number of uſeful and amiable qualities, both in public and private life; for his courage and zeal for the good of his country, his humanity, his knowledge and love of literature, was far the richeſt production and moſt ſhining ornament this iſland ever had. The college is in Bridge town, the capital of this iſland, which, before it was diminiſhed by fire, contained about twelve hundred houſes, very handſomely built, and inhabited by a numerous and wealthy people.

The country of Barbadoes has a moſt beautiful appearance, ſwelling here and there into gentle hills! ſhining by the cultivation of every part, by the verdure of the ſugar-canes, the bloom and fragrance of the number of orange,

orange, lemon, lime, and citron trees, the guavas, papas, aloes, and a vaſt number of other elegant and uſeful plants, that ariſe intermixed with the houſes of the gentlemen, which are thickly ſown on every part of the iſland. Even the negro huts, though mean, contribute to the beauty of the country; for they ſhade them with the plantain-trees, which give their villages the appearance of ſo many beautiful groves. In ſhort, there is no place in the Weſt Indies comparable to Barbadoes, in point of numbers of people, cultivation of the ſoil, and thoſe elegancies and conveniences which reſult from both.

St. VINCENT and GRANADA.

THE firſt of theſe iſlands, St. Vincent, lies about fifty miles north-weſt of Barbadoes, thirty miles ſouth of St. Lucia, and is about twenty-four miles in length, and eighteen in breadth. It is extremely fruitful, being a black mould upon a ſtrong loam, the moſt adapted for the growth of ſugar. Indigo thrives here very well, though this article is not now cultivated in the Weſt Indies as much as formerly. It is at preſent chiefly inhabited by the Caribbeans, and ma-

ny fugitives from Barbadoes and the other iſlands.

Granada is ſituated about thirty leagues ſouth-weſt of Barbadoes, and almoſt the ſame diſtance north of New Andaluſia, or the Spaniſh Main. This iſland is ſaid to be about thirty miles in length, and fifteen in breadth. The ſoil of it, like that of St. Vincent, is extremely proper for producing ſugar, coffee, tobacco, and indigo, and ſeems to bid fair for becoming as uſeful as any of the iſlands in the Weſt Indies, of the ſame ſize. A lake on the top of a hill, in the middle of the iſland, ſupplies it with ſome fine rivers, which fertilize and adorn it. Several bays and harbours lie round the iſland, ſome of which are capable of receiving great fortified ſtrength, and this iſland has the happineſs of not being ſubject to hurricanes. St. George, the principal port, has a ſandy bottom, and is ſo capacious and ſafe, that a thouſand veſſels, from three to four hundred tons, may ride ſecure from ſtorms, and an hundred ſhips of the greateſt burthen may be moored in its harbour. By the treaty of peace, ſigned at Paris in 1763, this iſland which before belonged to the French, and was taken from them in the courſe of that glorious war, was confirmed to the crown of Great Britain, together with the ſmall iſlands on the north,

called

called the Granadines, which yield much the ſame produce. In the courſe of the late unfortunate war, it was retaken by the French, as was alſo the iſland of St. Vincent; but both were reſtored to Great-Britain at the peace of 1783.

ST. CHRISTOPHER, ANTIGUA, NEVIS, MONTSERRAT, and DOMINICA.

THE iſland of St. Chriſtopher is the chief of thoſe we poſſeſs among the leeward iſlands, and lies in ſixty two degrees weſt longitude, and ſeventeen degrees north latitude, being about fourteen leagues from Antigua. It was firſt ſettled by the French and Engliſh in the year 1626, after various fortunes, it was entirely ceded to us by the treaty of Utrecht. This iſland is about ſeventy-five miles in compaſs. The circuit of Antigua is but little inferior. Nevis and Monſerrat are the ſmalleſt of the four, neither of theſe two exceeding eighteen or twenty miles in circumference,

The ſoil of St. Chriſtopher, Antigua, Nevis, and Montſerrat, are pretty much alike, light and ſandy, yet fertile in a high degree. Antigua has no rivulets of freſh water, and

but very few ſprings, which made it be conſidered for a long time as uninhabitable; but now they ſave the rain in ponds and ciſterns with great care, and they are ſeldom diſtreſſed for water. Indeed, this iſland, which we formerly thought uſeleſs, has got the ſtart of all the leeward iſlands, encreaſing every day in its produce and inhabitants, both freemen and ſlaves. It has one of the beſt harharbours in the Weſt Indies, on which ſtands St, John's, the principal town, which is large and wealthy,

The iſland of St Chriſtopher is not ſo much on the encreaſe. Neither that, or any of the Leeward iſlands, yields any commodity of conſequence but what is derived from the cane, except Montſerrat, which exports ſome indigo, though it is of a very inferior kind.

It is judged, that the iſland of St. Chriſtopher contains about ſeven thouſand whites and twenty thouſand negroes; that Antigua has alſo about ſeven thouſand of the former colour, and thirty thouſand blacks; and that Nevis and Montſerrat may have each about five thouſand Europeans, who are the maſters of ten or twelve thouſand ſlaves.

Dominica lies about half way between Guadaloupe and Martinico, being about twenty eight miles in length, and thirteen in breadth,

breadth. The ſoil of this iſland is thin, and better adapted to the rearing of coffee than ſugar; but the ſides of the hills bear the fineſt trees in the Weſt Indies, and the iſland is well ſupplied with rivulets of fine water. the French always oppoſed our ſettling here, becauſe it cuts off their communication, in time of war, between Martinico and Guadaloupe. We have derived little advantage, from the conqueſt of this iſland, it being till lately, no better than an harbour for the other Caribbees, who, being expelled their own ſettlements, have taken refuge here. However, on account of its ſituation between the French iſlands, and Prince Rupert's Bay, being one of the moſt capacious in the Weſt Indies, it has been judged expedient to form Dominica into a government of itſelf, and to declare it a free port.

Of theſe five iſlands, St. Chriſtopher, Nevis, Montſerrat, and Dominica, were taken by the French during the courſe of the late ruinous war; but at the general peace, in 1783, they were reſtored to the crown of England.

GENE-

GENERAL REMARKS on the Climate of the WEST INDIES.

THE climate of all our West India iſlands is nearly the ſame, allowing for thoſe accidental differences, which the ſeveral ſituations and qualities of the lands themſelves produce. As they lie within the torrid zone, and the ſun goes quite over their heads, paſſing beyond them to the north, and never retires from any of them than about thirty degrees to the ſouth, they are continually ſubject to the extreme of heat, which would be intolerable, if the trade-wind, riſing gradually as the ſun gathers ſtrength, did not blow in upon them from the ſea, and refreſh them in ſuch a manner, as to enable them to attend their concerns even under the meridian ſun. On the other hand, as the night advances, a breeze begins to be perceived, which blows ſmartly from the land, as it were from its center, towards the ſea, to all points of the compaſs at once.

By the ſame remarkable providence in the diſpoſing of things it is, that, when the ſun has made a great progreſs towards the tropic of Cancer, and becomes in a manner vertical,

tical, he draws after him such a vast number of clouds, as shield them from his direct beams, and dissolving into rain, cool the air and refresh the country, thirsty with the long drought, which commonly reigns from the beginning of January to the latter end of May.

The rains in the West Indies are by no means like what they are with us, since our heaviest rains, when compared with theirs, are but dews. They are rather floods of water poured from the clouds with a prodigious impetuosity; the rivers rise in an instant, new rivers and lakes are formed, and in a short time all the low country is under water. Hence it is, that the rivers which have their source within the tropics, swell and overflow their banks at certain seasons. So mistaken were the ancients in their idea of the torrid zone, which they imagined to be dried and scorched up with a continual and fervent heat, and to be for that reason uninhabitable; when, in reality, some of the largest rivers in the world have their courses within its limits, and the moisture is one of the greatest inconveniences of the climate in several places.

The rains make the only distinction of seasons in the West Indies; the trees are green the whole year round; they have no cold,

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no froſt, no ſnow, and but rarely any hail. The ſtorms of hail are however very violent when they happen, and the hail ſtones very large and heavy.

Whether it be owing to this moiſture alone, which does not of itſelf ſeem to be a ſufficient cauſe, or to a greater quantity of a ſulphureous acid, which predominates in the air in this country, metals of all kinds that are ſubject to the action of ſuch cauſes, ruſt and canker in a very ſhort time; and this cauſe, perhaps as much as the heat itſelf, contributes to make the climate of the Weſt Indies unfriendly and unpleaſant to an European conſtitution.

It is in the rainy ſeaſon, principally in the month of Auguſt, more rarely in July and September, that they are aſſaulted by hurricanes, the moſt terrible calamity to which they are ſubject from the climate. This deſtroys at a ſtroke the labour of many years, proſtrates the moſt exalted hopes of the planter, and often juſt at the moment when he thinks himſelf out of the reach of fortune. It is a ſudden and violent ſtorm of wind, rain, thunder and lightning, attended with a furious ſwelling of the ſea, and ſometimes with an earthquake; in ſhort, with every circumſtance, which the element can aſſemble, that is terrible and deſtructive. Firſt they

they ſee, as the prelude to the enſuing havock, whole fields of ſugar-canes whirled into the air, and ſcattered over the face of the country. The ſtrongeſt trees of the foreſt are torn up by the roots, and driven about like ſtubble; their windmills are ſwept away in a moment; their works, the fixtures, the ponderous copper boilers, and ſtills of ſeveral hundred weight, are wrenched from the ground, and battered to pieces. Their houſes are no protection, the roofs of which are torn of at one blaſt; whilſt the rain which in an hour riſes five feet, ruſhes in upon them with an irreſiſtible violence.

There are ſigns, which the Indians of theſe iſlands taught our planters, by which they can prognoſticate the approach of an hurricane. The hurricane comes on at either of the quarters, or at the full change of the moon. If it come at the full-moon, theſe ſigns are obſerved at the change; that day you will ſee the ſky very turbulent; you will obſerve the ſun more red than at other times; you will perceive a dead calm, and the hills clear of all thoſe clouds and miſts, which uſually hover about them. In the clefts of the earth, and in the wells, you hear a hollow rumbling ſound like the ruſhing of a great wind. At night, the ſtars ſeem much larger than uſual, and ſurrounded by a ſort of

of burs; the northweſt ſky has a black and menacing look; the ſea emits a ſtrong ſmell, and riſes into vaſt waves, often without any wind; the wind itſelf now forſakes its uſual ſteady eaſterly ſtream, and ſhifts about to the weſt from whence it ſometimes blows with intermiſſions, violently and irregularly for about two hours at a time. Theſe are the prognoſtics of an approaching hurricane.

The ſtaple commodities of the Weſt Indies are ſugars and rum. Sugar was not at all known to the Greeks and Romans, though it was made in China in very early times, from whence we had the firſt knowledge of it; but the Portugeſe were the firſt who cultivated it in America, and brought it into requeſt, as one of the materials of a very univerſal luxury in Europe.

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